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Contact: B. Singh 202 337-1904
Release Instructions: Immediate, June 5, 2010

MSD/EEB/REC/REGISTRATION UNIT
2010 AUG -3 PM 5:05

Sikhs to Observe Anniversary of Golden Temple Massacre of June 1984

Sikhs Cannot Forgive, Forget This Brutal Attack

Bhindranwale Said Attack “Will Lay Foundation of Khalistan”

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 5, 2010 – Sikhs from around the East Coast gathered in Washington, D.C. today to commemorate the Indian government’s brutal military attack on the Golden Temple, the center and seat of the Sikh religion, and 37 other Sikh Gurdwaras throughout Punjab, in June 1984, in which over 20,000 Sikhs were murdered.

During the Golden Temple attack, young boys ages 8 to 13 were taken outside and asked if they supported Khalistan, the independent Sikh country. When they answered with the Sikh religious phrase “*Bole So Nihal*,” they were shot to death. The *Guru Granth Sahib*, the Sikh holy scriptures, written in the time of the Sikh Gurus, were shot full of bullet holes and burned by the Indian forces. The Sikh library, which contained Hukum Namas written by the Sikh Gurus and other historical artifacts of the Sikh Nation, was burned.

The Golden Temple attack was a brutal chapter in India’s repression of the Sikhs, according to Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, the government pro tempore of Khalistan, which leads the struggle for Khalistan’s independence. “Sikhs cannot forgive or forget this atrocity against the seat of our religion by the Indian government,” said Dr. Aulakh. “This brutal attack clarified that there is no place in India for Sikhs,” he said. On October 7, 1987, the Sikh Nation declared its independence from India, naming its new country Khalistan.

“Sant Bhindranwale said that attacking the Golden Temple would lay the foundation stone of Khalistan, and he was right,” said Dr. Aulakh. “Instead of crushing the Sikh movement for Khalistan, as India intended, the attack strengthened it,” he said. “The flame of freedom still burns bright in the hearts of Sikhs despite the deployment of over half a million Indian troops to crush it,” he said. Recently during the celebration of the first Sikh Raj of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur, slogans of “Khalistan Zindabad” were raised by leaders of Dal Khalsa and others. The Sikh struggle for freedom is alive and well in Punjab.

A report issued by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) shows that India admitted that it held 52,268 political prisoners under the repressive “Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act” (TADA) even though it expired in 1995. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984. There has been no list published of those who were acquitted under TADA and those who are still rotting in Indian jails. Additionally, according to Amnesty International, there are tens of thousands of other minorities being held as political prisoners. MASR report quotes the Punjab Civil Magistracy as writing “if we add up the figures of the last few years the number of innocent persons killed would run into lakhs [hundreds of thousands.]” Former Speaker of the Indian Parliament Balam Jakhar has said, “to preserve the unity of India, if we have to eliminate 2 crore [20 million] Sikhs, we will do so.” The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout the country, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government’s murders of Sikhs “**worse than a genocide**.”

Recently, the Indian government has been promoting the idea of Sikh militancy. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper to watch out for Sikh separatists whom he claimed were trying to ignite militancy. Canada denied visas to officials of the Indian Intelligence Bureau and other violent agencies.

“Only in a free Khalistan will the Sikh Nation prosper and get justice,” said Dr. Aulakh. “When Khalistan is free, we will have our own Ambassadors, our own representation in the UN and other international bodies, and our own leaders to keep this sort of thing from happening. We won’t be at the mercy of the brutal Indian regime and its Hindu militant allies,” he said. “Democracies don’t commit genocide. India should act like a democracy and allow a plebiscite on independence for Khalistan and all the nations of South Asia,” Dr. Aulakh said. “As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, ‘**If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh**,’” Dr. Aulakh noted. “We must continue to pray for and work for our God-given birthright of freedom,” he said. “Without political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish.”

##30##

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Council of Khalistan Press Release

“RECOGNIZE YE ALL THE HUMAN RACE AS ONE.”

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Contact: B. Singh 202 337-1904
Release Instructions: *Immediate, May 28, 2010*

Manmohan Singh Should Stop Maligning Sikhs *Attacks on “Separatists” Promote Interests of Indian Regime*

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 28, 2010 – Recently, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, criticized Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for his request to Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper that Canada monitor Sikh “separatists.” Prime Minister Singh falsely presented Sikh freedom activists in Canada as “separatists” whom he claims are “trying to revive militancy,” according to *Indian Panorama*. Vishnu Prakash, spokesman for India's External Affairs Ministry, told *Indian Panorama* after the meeting that India was concerned over the rise of “terrorist organizations.” Apparently, India's definition of a terrorist is someone who peacefully seeks freedom.

After Dr. Aulakh made his remarks at the New York Sikh Day Parade on April 24, he was attacked by the pro-Indian newspaper *Sher-E-Panjab*, which claimed that Dr. Aulakh “used derogatory words” against Prime Minister Singh.

This is not the first time that Manmohan Singh has done the dirty work of the Indian regime. When Sikhs presented human-rights violations by the Indian regime to the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva in 1993, Dr. Singh was sent to lie for the government. He falsely claimed that there were no human rights violations against the Sikhs, even though he knew that the regime murdered more than 250,000 Sikhs. Over 50,000 Sikh youth have been arrested, tortured, killed, and secretly cremated, and their bodies were declared unidentified. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs **“worse than a genocide.”**

“How can you admire a man like Manmohan Singh?”, asked Dr. Aulakh. “Prime Minister Singh is a Sikh, yet he is complicit in the repression of Sikhs and demands that Canada monitor Sikhs,” he said. “Is he lying to the Guru when he does his *Ardas*? How can he recite '*Raj Kare Ga Khalsa*' every day and yet oppose Sikh freedom?”, said Dr. Aulakh.

“This request by Prime Minister Singh is a shameful attempt to intimidate Canada and other Western democracies into doing the dirty work of the repressive Indian regime,” said Dr. Aulakh. “Prime Minister Singh should be ashamed of himself for his betrayal of the Sikh Nation,” he said. “It is time for the Prime Minister to stop maligning Sikhs.”

“We know that *Sher-E-Panjab* and some other so-called Sikh publications are funded by the Indian Embassy to keep the freedom movement down,” said Dr. Aulakh. “It is pathetic that they are using so much money attacking people like me, but the attacks on me show that I am doing something right. The work of this office is scaring the Indian regime,” he said. “Why doesn't the Indian regime use the large amounts of money it is using for this purpose to help the 782 million Indians who live on less than two dollars (\$2) per day, according to *India-West*?”, Dr. Aulakh asked. “Why must it waste this money paying for propaganda to support its anti-democratic repression?”

“The Sikh media and the Sikh diaspora have a responsibility to support freedom for Khalistan in every way we can,” said Dr. Aulakh. “This would be the best way to show the true Sikh spirit,” said Dr. Aulakh. “Khalistan's freedom is nearer than ever. India is destined to fall apart soon. “As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, **‘If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh’**,” Dr. Aulakh noted. Former Akal Takht Jathedars Bhai Ranjit Singh and Sardar Joginder Singh Vedanti have also publicly stated their support for Khalistan. “How can Manmohan Singh oppose these Akal Takht Jathedars?”, Dr. Aulakh asked.

Last year, the Central Intelligence Agency predicted that India will break up by 2015. India is a multinational state thrown together by the British colonialists for their administrative convenience. The breakup of India is inevitable. “We prefer that the breakup should be peaceful like Czechoslovakia rather than violent like Yugoslavia,” Dr. Aulakh said. “We are committed to liberating Khalistan by peaceful, democratic, nonviolent means. What does the Indian regime prefer? I fear that they prefer violence,” he said. “Manmohan Singh's conduct shows us again that it is time to start a *Shantmai Morcha* to liberate Khalistan now.”

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Anniversary of Air India Bombing Approaches *Indian Government Carried Out Terrorist Attack* Regime Continues to Blame Sikhs Despite Evidence

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 28, 2010 – June 23 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the bombing of Air India Flight 129, the worst terrorist attack involving aircraft prior to the September 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington. Although the Indian regime continues to try to blame Sikhs for the attack, the evidence is strong and clear that India itself carried out the attack. Ripudaman Singh Malik and Ajaib Singh Bagri were acquitted of all charges in the Air India bombing case, in a major rebuke to the Indian regime. Judge Ian Josephson said that the witnesses against Malik and Bagri were “not credible.” Malik and Bagri were found not guilty in the deaths of 329 people, 82 of them children, who perished when Air India Flight 182 was brought down by a bomb on June 23, 1985 in Canada’s worst case of mass murder.

Air India flight 182 was blown up on its way from Toronto to Bombay. It was supposed to be blown up at the London airport when no passengers would be aboard, but due to delays it blew up over Ireland. Two days before the bombings, police say a man of East Indian descent went to the Canadian Pacific Airlines ticket office in downtown Vancouver. He paid cash for two tickets. Both were registered under the last name “Singh.” One ticket was booked to go to Narita Airport in Tokyo and then on to India. The other ticket was booked from Vancouver to connect with Air India Flight 182 out of Toronto.

The book *Soft Target* by Canadian journalists Zuhair Kashmeri of the *Toronto Globe and Mail* and Brian McAndrew of the *Toronto Star* exposed India’s responsibility for this bombing. In the book, Kashmeri and McAndrew quoted a Canadian Security Investigative Service (CSIS) investigator as saying, **“If you really want to clear the incidents quickly, take vans down to the Indian High Commission and the consulates in Toronto and Vancouver, load up everybody and take them down for questioning. We know it and they know it that they are involved.”**

The book shows that within hours after the flight was blown up, the Indian Consul General in Toronto, Surinder Malik (no relation to Ripudaman Singh Malik), called in a detailed description of the bombing and the names of those he said were involved, information that the Canadian government didn’t discover until weeks later. Mr. Malik said to look on the passenger manifest for the name “L. Singh.” This would turn out to be Lal Singh, who told the press that he was offered “two million dollars and settlement in a nice country” by the Indian regime to give false testimony in the case.

In his book *Betrayal: The Spy Canada Abandoned*, former Canadian Member of Parliament David Kilgour wrote that Canadian-Polish double agent Ryszard Paszkowski was approached to join a plot to carry out a second bombing. The people who approached Paszkowski were connected to the Indian government.

Despite this evidence, the Indian regime continues to try to blame Sikhs for the bombing. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh recently requested Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper to be alert for alleged “Sikh separatists.”

The Indian regime has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, almost 100,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Manipuris, Tamils, Dalits, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government’s murders of Sikhs **“worse than a genocide.”**

“Khalistan’s freedom is nearer than ever,” said Dr. Aulakh. “India is destined to fall apart soon.” Last year, the Central Intelligence Agency predicted that India will break up by 2015. India is a multinational state thrown together by the British colonialists for their administrative convenience. The breakup of India is inevitable. “As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, **‘If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh’**,” Dr. Aulakh noted. “Two other Jathedars, Bhai Ranjit Singh and Joginder Singh Vedanti, have taken the same position. It is time to liberate Khalistan.”

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Sikhs to Observe Anniversary of Golden Temple Massacre of June 1984

Sikhs Cannot Forgive, Forget This Brutal Attack

Bhindranwale Said Attack "Will Lay Foundation of Khalistan"

What: Protest to Commemorate Indian Massacre of Sikhs at Golden Temple

When: Saturday, June 5, 2010, 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Where: In front of Indian Embassy, 2107 Massachusetts Ave. NW (at Q St. NW), Washington, DC

Why: to remember the desecration of the Golden Temple and the massacre of Sikhs, to show support for Sikh victims of repression in Punjab, Khalistan, and to demonstrate support for a sovereign Khalistan

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 28, 2010 – Sikhs from around the East Coast will gather in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, June 5 at 1:00 PM to commemorate the Indian government's brutal military attack on the Golden Temple, the center and seat of the Sikh religion, and 37 other Sikh Gurdwaras throughout Punjab, in June 1984, in which over 20,000 Sikhs were murdered.

During the Golden Temple attack, young boys ages 8 to 13 were taken outside and asked if they supported Khalistan, the independent Sikh country. When they answered with the Sikh religious phrase "*Bole So Nihal*," they were shot to death. The *Guru Granth Sahib*, the Sikh holy scriptures, written in the time of the Sikh Gurus, were shot full of bullet holes and burned by the Indian forces. The Sikh library, which contained Hukum Namas written by the Sikh Gurus and other historical artifacts of the Sikh Nation, was burned.

The Golden Temple attack was a brutal chapter in India's repression of the Sikhs, according to Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, the government pro tempore of Khalistan, which leads the struggle for Khalistan's independence. "Sikhs cannot forgive or forget this atrocity against the seat of our religion by the Indian government, said Dr. Aulakh "This brutal attack clarified that there is no place in India for Sikhs," he said. On October 7, 1987, the Sikh Nation declared its independence from India, naming its new country Khalistan.

Sant Bhindranwale said that attacking the Golden Temple would lay the foundation stone of Khalistan, and he was right," said Dr. Aulakh. "Instead of crushing the Sikh movement for Khalistan, as India intended, the attack strengthened it," he said. "The flame of freedom still burns bright in the hearts of Sikhs despite the deployment of over half a million Indian troops to crush it," he said. Recently during the celebration of the first Sikh Raj of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur, slogans of "Khalistan Zindabad" were raised by leaders of Dal Khalsa and others. The Sikh struggle for freedom is alive and well in Punjab.

A report issued by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) shows that India admitted that it held 52,268 political prisoners under the repressive "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA) even though it expired in 1995. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984. There has been no list published of those who were acquitted under TADA and those who are still rotting in Indian jails. Additionally, according to Amnesty International, there are tens of thousands of other minorities being held as political prisoners. MASR report quotes the Punjab Civil Magistracy as writing "if we add up the figures of the last few years the number of innocent persons killed would run into lakhs [hundreds of thousands.]" Former Speaker of the Indian Parliament Balram Jakhar has said, "to preserve the unity of India, if we have to eliminate 2 crore [20 million] Sikhs, we will do so." The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout the country, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "**worse than a genocide.**"

Recently, the Indian government has been promoting the idea of Sikh militancy. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper to watch out for Sikh separatists whom he claimed were trying to ignite militancy. Canada denied visas to officials of the Indian Intelligence Bureau and other violent agencies.

"Only in a free Khalistan will the Sikh Nation prosper and get justice," said Dr. Aulakh. "When Khalistan is free, we will have our own Ambassadors, our own representation in the UN and other international bodies, and our own leaders to keep this sort of thing from happening. We won't be at the mercy of the brutal Indian regime and its Hindu militant allies," he said. "Democracies don't commit genocide. India should act like a democracy and allow a rebiscite on independence for Khalistan and all the nations of South Asia," Dr. Aulakh said. "As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, '*If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh*,'" Dr. Aulakh noted. "We must continue to pray for and work for our God-given birthright of freedom," he said. "Without political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish."

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Release Instructions: *Immediate, April 22, 2010*

Sikhs in New York Protest Kamal Nath *Involved in 1984 Delhi Massacre*

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 22, 2010 – Sikhs in New York protested the recent visit of Indian Road Transport Minister Kamal Nath, who was involved in planning and organizing the 1984 Delhi massacre of Sikhs.

"We are here to inform the American public about the facts that many criminals including Minister Kamal Nath who participated in India's 1984 genocide of the Sikh community have never been brought to justice," said G S Pannun, one of the main organizers of the protest, which occurred outside the McGraw-Hill Building on Avenue of the Americas in Manhattan, where Mr. Nath was attending a conference. The protest was organized by Sikhs for Justice, which aims to bring everyone involved in the 1984 genocide to justice. Nath was one of the organizers of the November 1984 Delhi massacres that killed over 20,000 Sikhs after Prime Minister Indira Gandhi ordered the invasion of the Golden Temple and was assassinated.

"We want to put him behind bars. Anyone guilty should be behind bars," said Avtar Singh Pannu, an organizer of the protest. The Indian regime has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, almost 100,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Manipuris, Tamils, Dalits, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs **"worse than a genocide."**

Sikhs for Justice filed a lawsuit in Manhattan federal court this week against Nath on behalf of the deceased and injured victims of the Delhi massacre and their families. Jasbir Singh, 44, and Mohinder Singh, 27, of Hayward, Calif., also are plaintiffs.

"I salute these brave Sikhs for calling to account one of the major figures involved in the Delhi massacre," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalsitan. "The Delhi massacres highlight the need for Sikhs to reclaim their sovereignty in an independent Khalistan. In Khalistan, such atrocities would not be allowed to be carried out on the Sikh Nation," he said. "How can Kamal Nath be allowed in the United States and Simranjit Singh Mann be banned?" he asked.

Dr. Aulakh said that it is time for the entire Sikh Nation and the whole Sikh leadership to support Khalistan. "The actions of Kamal Nath and so many others in the Indian regime are putting the very survival of the Sikhs at risk. We must have our freedom," Dr. Aulakh said. "I urge all Sikhs to support a sovereign, independent Khalistan to save the Sikh Nation. It is our birthright," he said. "Khalsitan will be free soon," he said. It is inevitable that India will fall apart."

Last year, the Central Intelligence Agency predicted that India will break up by 2015. India is not a single country; it has 18 official languages and 17 freedom movements within its artificial borders. It is a multinational state thrown together by the British colonialists for their administrative convenience. As Steve Forbes pointed out in his excellent *Forbes* magazine article "India, Meet Austria-Hungary," history shows that such countries collapse, from the Austro-Hungarian Empire to the Soviet Union to Czechoslovakia to Yugoslavia. The breakup of India is very close.

"As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, **'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh'**," Dr. Aulakh noted. "We must continue to pray for and work for our God-given birthright of freedom," he said. "Without political power, religions cannot flourish, repression continues, and nations perish."

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Manmohan Singh Tells Canadian Prime Minister That Sikhs Are Terrorists *Warns About Sikh “Separatists”*

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 22, 2010 – Recently, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, a Sikh, demanded of Canadian Prime Minister Steven Harper that Canada monitor Sikh “separatists.” He noted that this year is the twentieth anniversary of the Air India attack. Prime Minister Singh failed to mention that Ripudaman Singh Malik and Ajaib Singh Bagri were acquitted of all charges in the Air India bombing case, in a major rebuke to the Indian regime. Malik and Bagri were found not guilty in the deaths of 329 people who perished when Air India Flight 182 was brought down by a bomb on June 23, 1985 in Canada’s worst case of mass murder.

Air India flight 182 was blown up off Ireland in 1985. It was on its way from Toronto to Bombay. It was supposed to be blown up at the London airport when no passengers would be aboard, but due to delays it blew up over Ireland. The book *Soft Target* by Canadian journalists Zuhair Kashmeri of the *Toronto Globe and Mail* and Brian McAndrew of the *Toronto Star* exposed India’s responsibility for this bombing. In the book, Kashmeri and McAndrew quoted a Canadian Security Investigative Service (CSIS) investigator as saying, **“If you really want to clear the incidents quickly, take vans down to the Indian High Commission and the consulates in Toronto and Vancouver, load up everybody and take them down for questioning. We know it and they know it that they are involved.”**

The book shows that within hours after the flight was blown up, the Indian Consul General in Toronto, Surinder Malik (no relation to Ripudaman Singh Malik), called in a detailed description of the bombing and the names of those he said were involved, information that the Canadian government didn’t discover until weeks later. Mr. Malik said to look on the passenger manifest for the name “L. Singh.” This would turn out to be Lal Singh, who told the press that he was offered “two million dollars and settlement in a nice country” by the Indian regime to give false testimony in the case.

In his book *Betrayal: The Spy Canada Abandoned*, former Canadian Member of Parliament David Kilgour wrote that Canadian-Polish double agent Ryszard Paszkowski was approached to join a plot to carry out a second bombing. The people who approached Paszkowski were connected to the Indian government.

“The Prime Minister of India is a Sikh, yet he is complicit in the repression of Sikhs and demands that Canada monitor Sikhs,” said Dr. Aulakh. “Is he lying to the Guru when he does his Ardas? He warns about ‘separatists’, but is he not a separatist himself if he says Ardas?” he said.

The Indian regime has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, almost 100,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Manipuris, Tamils, Dalits, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government’s murders of Sikhs **“worse than a genocide.”**

“We must support freedom for Khalsitan in every way we can,” said Dr. Aulakh. “This would be the best way to show the true Sikh spirit,” said Dr. Aulakh. “Khalistan’s freedom is nearer than ever. India is destined to fall apart soon.” Last year, the Central Intelligence Agency predicted that India will break up by 2015. India is a multinational state thrown together by the British colonialists for their administrative convenience. The breakup of India is inevitable.

“As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, **‘If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh’**,” Dr. Aulakh noted. “We seek our lost sovereignty,” said Dr. Aulakh. “How does Manmohan Singh translate that into terrorism?”

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Dal Khalsa Issues Statement for Sikh Sovereignty *Praising Dal Khalsa for Strong Stand in Face of Indian Repression*

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 22, 2010— On April 14, Dal Khalsa issued a statement entitled “Dal Khalsa swears by sovereign self-rule for Sikhs.” In the statement, Dal Khalsa, under the leadership of its president, H.S. Dhami, said, “The Khalsa Panth is not just a religious body but also a sovereign political entity. Throughout the centuries, the Sikhs have had a unique place among the people of world, developing into a distinct nation in their own right. The concept of sovereignty and statehood is a fundamental part of our very existence.”

At its leadership meeting, Dal Khalsa also passed a resolution that stated, “Today is our National day. Though British suspended the political sovereignty of the Sikh Nation with the annexation of Punjab in 1849 yet we, the Sikhs, remain a Nation though subjugated. Sikhs as a nation has been struggling for its freedom against all odds, refusing to submit to those who aim to eliminate their identity”. They also called for commutation of the death sentence on Professor Devinder Pal Singh and the release of all political prisoners, taking special note of Bhai Daljeet Singh. According to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! Many are held under the repressive so-called “Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act” (TADA), which expired in 1995. “These prisoners never committed any crime but peacefully speaking out for Sikh freedom,” said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. “What is a democracy doing holding political prisoners?,” he asked. “This alone shows that for Sikhs and other minorities, there is no democracy, no freedom of speech.” He recalled the arrests of 35 Sikhs for making speeches and raising the Khalistani flag.

Sardar Dhami also said that the Sikh community that “has sacrificed fifty thousand youth can’t abandon its aims and goals half-way.” Those 50,000 youth are among over 250,000 Sikhs killed by the Indian regime since 1984, along with more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, almost 100,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Manipuris, Tamils, Dalits, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government’s murders of Sikhs **“worse than a genocide.”**

Dr. Aulakh said that Dal Khalsa and other leaders who support Khalistan. “They have shown the true Sikh spirit of ‘*Khalsa Bagi Yan Badshah*,’” said Dr. Aulakh. “A committed Sikh will not back down in the face of repression. We praise Sardar Dhami and other pro-Khalistan leaders and we pray that Guru will continue to uphold them in the true Sikh spirit,” he said. “I urge all Sikhs to support those leaders who stand strong for a sovereign, independent Khalistan. It is our birthright,” he said. “We can never accept the rule of slavemasters. We owe it to the Gurus and to future generations to liberate Khalistan.”

In the November 16-30, 2008 issue of *Dalit Voice*, V.T. Rajshekar wrote, “It is only the Brahminical people who say India is a ‘nation’ while the history says Indian was never, ever a nation.” India is a multinational state thrown together by the British colonialists for their administrative convenience. As Steve Forbes pointed out in his excellent *Forbes* magazine article “India, Meet Austria-Hungary,” history shows that such countries collapse, from the Austro-Hungarian Empire to the Soviet Union to Czechoslovakia to Yugoslavia. The breakup of India is inevitable. Events such as this seminar help to ensure that it occurs peacefully.

“As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, **‘If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh’**,” Dr. Aulakh noted. “We must continue to pray for and work for our God-given birthright of freedom,” he said. “Without political power, religions cannot flourish, repression continues, and nations perish.”

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Council of Khalistan Press Release

“RECOGNIZE YE ALL THE HUMAN RACE AS ONE.”

Guru Gobind Singh Ji, Tenth Master



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Contact: B. Singh 202 337-1904
Release Instructions: *Immediate, April 22, 2010*

S. S. Mann's Visa Revoked *State Department Acts at Behest of Indian Regime*

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 22, 2010 – Last week Sikhs in Washington, D.C. held one of several parades to honor Vaisakhi Day, the national day of the Sikh Nation. Vaisakhi Day is the anniversary of the founding of the Khalsa Panth, one of the most significant days in the Sikh calendar. Former Member of Parliament Simranjit Singh Mann was scheduled to appear at the Washington, D.C. parade, but the State Department revoked his visa at the behest of the Indian regime.

Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which leads the struggle to liberate Khalsitan, condemned the revocation of Sardar Mann's visa. “The State Department should be ashamed of itself,” he said. “It is outrageous that the United States government would kowtow to the Indian regime in this way,” said Dr. Aulakh. Noting that Sardar Mann was among those arrested a few years ago for making speeches and raising the flag of Khalsitan, Dr. Aulakh said, “the criminalization of speech in the self-proclaimed ‘world's largest democracy’ is outrageous. The revocation of Sardar mann's visa was intended to keep him from speaking out for Khalistan, but instead, it underlines just why Khalsitan is needed,” he said. “This is not the action of a free country but of a tyranny.”

Vaisakhi Day celebrates the emergence of the Khalsa Panth as a distinct people. Sikhs have been celebrating with devotion and reverence. Guru Gobind Singh proclaimed the sovereignty of the Sikh Nation; “*In grieb Sikhin ko deon patshahi.*” Every morning and evening Sikhs recite “*Raj Kare Ga Khalsa,*” meaning “the Khalsa shall rule,” and “*Khalsa Bagi Yan Badshah,*” meaning “either the Khalsa is in rebellion or the ruler.”

“The Prime Minister of India is a Sikh, yet he took action to prevent the expression of Sikh freedom,” said Dr. Aulakh. “Is he lying to the Guru when he does his Ardas? He is a disgrace to the Sikh Nation,” he said. “How can the Sikh Nation and people survive with leaders like Manmohan Singh and Parkash Singh Badal?” He said that the revocation of Mann's visa was probably a reaction to former Akal Takht Jathedar Joginder Singh Vedanti coming to the parade in New York a few years ago and supporting freedom for Khalistan. Jathedar Vedanti joined former Akal Takht Jathedars Bhai Ranjit Singh and Darshan Singh in supporting Khalistan.

The Indian regime has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, almost 100,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Manipuris, Tamils, Dalits, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs **“worse than a genocide.”**

“We must support freedom for Khalsitan in every way we can,” said Dr. Aulakh. “This would be the best way to show the true Sikh spirit,” said Dr. Aulakh. “Khalistan's freedom is nearer than ever. India is destined to fall apart soon.”

Last year, the Central Intelligence Agency predicted that India will break up by 2015. India is a multinational state thrown together by the British colonialists for their administrative convenience. As Steve Forbes pointed out in his excellent *Forbes* magazine article “India, Meet Austria-Hungary,” history shows that such countries collapse, from the Austro-Hungarian Empire to the Soviet Union to Czechoslovakia to Yugoslavia. The breakup of India is inevitable.

“As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, ‘*If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh*,’” Dr. Aulakh noted. “Without political power, religions cannot flourish, repression continues, and nations perish.”

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Contact: B. Singh 202 337-1904
Release Instructions: *Immediate, April 22, 2010*

Dr. Aulakh Demands Release of Daljit Singh Bittu *Still Held on False Sedition Charges*

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 22, 2010— Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, today called for the immediate release of Sardar Daljit Singh Bittu, leader of the Akali Dal (Panch Pardhani), who has been held on false charges since being arrested in September. He was arrested on sedition charges in August under the so-called "Unlawful Activities Prevention Act" for displaying pictures of Sant Bhindranwale and for advocating independence for Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987. This marked the second time Sardar Bittu has been arrested for advocating Khalistan. He had been arrested in 2006 as well. His arrest was condemned by a wide range of Sikh organizations. "Is speech a crime in India?" asked Dr. Aulakh.

"It has been seven months now," Dr. Aulakh said. "You cannot continue to hold people on false charges forever. How can someone be arrested simply for advocating freedom for Khalistan?" asked Dr. Aulakh. "Is that the activity of a democracy or a police state?" Dr. Aulakh also took note of the 35 people who were arrested a few years ago for making speeches and raising the flag of Khalistan. The Indian courts have ruled in the case of the late Colonel Partap Singh that advocating Khalistan is not a crime. In 2004, Gurnihal Singh Pirzada was arrested on charges that he attended a meeting with "dissidents." Although he denied attending the meeting, he said that it would not be illegal if he did. Yet the government insists on criminalizing speech in support of Khalistan. The Badal government was behind the removal of Akal Takht Jathedar Joginder Singh Vedanti simply because he came to New York and spoke out for Khalistan.

"On what basis is the Indian government holding Sardar Bittu?" asked Dr. Aulakh. "If they have a real charge, they should file it. Otherwise, they should let Sardar Bittu go, along with all the other political prisoners." A report by the Movement Against State Repression showed that India admitted to holding 52,268 political prisoners. Some have been in government custody since 1984. Many are held under the repressive so-called "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA), which expired in 1995.

Sardar Bittu was arrested on his way to a meeting. He said that he was arrested on the directions of Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal to prevent competition with the Badal government. "The repression of all who peacefully advocate Khalistan is shamefully being carried out by a Sikh Prime Minister and a Sikh Chief Minister," Dr. Aulakh said. "As Sikhs, presumably they say '*Raj Kare Ga Khalsa*' ('the Khalsa shall rule') every day. Do they mean it or do they just say it? If they mean it, then why aren't they in jail with Sardar Bittu, since speaking for Sikh freedom and sovereignty is apparently now a crime in Punjab?"

The Indian regime has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, almost 100,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Manipuris, Tamils, Dalits, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs **"worse than a genocide."**

The CIA predicted that India will break up by 2015. In the November 16-30, 2008 issue of *Dalit Voice*, V.T. Rajshekar wrote, "It is only the Brahminical people who say India is a 'nation' while the history says Indian was never, ever a nation." India is a multinational state thrown together by the British colonialists for their administrative convenience. As Steve Forbes pointed out in his excellent *Forbes* magazine article "India, Meet Austria-Hungary," history shows that such countries collapse, from the Austro-Hungarian Empire to the Soviet Union to Czechoslovakia to Yugoslavia. The breakup of India is inevitable.

"As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, '*If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh*,'" Dr. Aulakh noted. "The continuing detention of Daljit Singh Bittu shows that there is no place for Sikhs in India," he said. "We must continue to work for the liberation of Khalistan so that Sikhs can live in freedom, peace, dignity, and prosperity."

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Contact: B. Singh 202 337-1904
Release Instructions: *Immediate, April 22, 2010*

Vaisakhi Celebrated With Parades *Sikhs March in Washington DC, New Jersey, Around Country*

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 22, 2010 – Last week Sikhs celebrated Vaisakhi Day with parades in Washington, DC, New Jersey, and other places. Vaisakhi Day is the anniversary of the founding of the Khalsa Panth, one of the most significant days in the Sikh calendar. It is the national day of the Sikh Nation. Vaisakhi Day is one of the most joyous days in the Sikh calendar, celebrating the emergence of the Khalsa Panth as a distinct people. Sikhs have been celebrating with devotion and reverence. Guru Gobind Singh proclaimed the sovereignty of the Sikh Nation; “*In grieb Sikhin ko deon patshahi.*” Every morning and evening Sikhs recite “*Raj Kare Ga Khalsa,*” meaning “the Khalsa shall rule,” and “*Khalsa Bagi Yan Badshah,*” meaning “either the Khalsa is in rebellion or the ruler.” Sovereignty is the birthright of all people, and it is the heritage of the Sikh Nation.

Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which leads the struggle to liberate Khalsitan, appeared at the parade in Washington, D.C. Former Member of Parliament Simranjit Singh Mann was scheduled to appear at the Washington, D.C. Parade, but the State Department revoked his visa at the behest of the Indian regime. “It is outrageous that the United States government would kowtow to the Indian regime in this way,” said Dr. Aulakh. “Sardar Mann has been guilty of nothing but stating his opinions. I guess after Jathedar Joginder Singh Vedanti came to New York and spoke out for Khalistan a few years ago, the Indian government is even more repressive about letting supporters of Khalistan out of the country. It is just another sign of how frightened the regime is,” Dr. Aulakh said. “They know that we are closer to liberating Khalsitan than ever before. The repression has been stepped up,” he said.

“We must remind ourselves of our heritage by raising slogans of ‘Khalistan Zindabad’ and beginning a *Shantmai Morcha* to liberate our homeland, Khalistan,” said Dr. Aulakh.

The Indian regime has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, almost 100,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Manipuris, Tamils, Dalits, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs “**worse than a genocide.**”

Dr. Aulakh said that it is time for the entire Sikh Nation and the whole Sikh leadership to support Khalistan. “This would be the best way to show the true Sikh spirit,” said Dr. Aulakh. “A committed Sikh will not back down in the face of repression. I urge all Sikhs to support those leaders who stand strong for a sovereign, independent Khalistan. It is our birthright,” he said. “The time of Khalistan’s liberation is near. India will fall apart soon,” he said. “This office has worked unwaveringly for a sovereign Khalistan for over 25 years,” he noted.

Last year, the Central Intelligence Agency predicted that India will break up by 2015. India is a multinational state thrown together by the British colonialists for their administrative convenience. As Steve Forbes pointed out in his excellent *Forbes* magazine article “India, Meet Austria-Hungary,” history shows that such countries collapse, from the Austro-Hungarian Empire to the Soviet Union to Czechoslovakia to Yugoslavia. The breakup of India is inevitable.

“As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, ‘**If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh**,’” Dr. Aulakh noted. “We must continue to pray for and work for our God-given birthright of freedom,” he said. “Without political power, religions cannot flourish, repression continues, and nations perish.”

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Contact: B. Singh 202 337-1904
Release Instructions: *Immediate, March 11, 2010*

Police Kill Sikh Protesting Dera Babas *Badal Protects Dera Babas, But His Police Fire on Sikhs* No Place for Sikhs in India

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 11, 2010 – Police killed 58-year old Bhai Darshan Singh, a Sikh rickshaw driver who was one of thousands of Sikhs protesting against the conclave of the fake baba Ashutosh Noormehlia, leader of the Divya Jyoti Jagran Sansthan on December 5, the day after they protected a demonstration by Biharis who burned Sikh buses, trucks, cars, and motorcycles in support of the babas. In addition to the one Sikh killed, at least a dozen Sikhs were injured. The police tried to arrest Damdami Taksal leader Baba Harnam Singh Dhumma. When the Sikhs intervened to stop it, the police fired at the Sikhs and lobbed tear gas. The clash took place in the Miller Ganj section of Ludhiana. They were peacefully protesting a planned Shoba Yatra by Ashutosh.

The babas held a protest and got police protection, but when Sikhs showed up the next day, police fired on them. “This shows that there is no place for Sikhs in India,” said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. “India will protect those who are trying to undermine the Sikh religion but attack those who defend it,” he said. “This is part of the Indian regime’s effort to destroy the Sikh religion. It is shameful for Badal to act as a stooge of the Indian government that is repressing the Sikh Nation.”

Ashutosh openly tells Sikhs not to follow the *Guru Granth Sahib*, the Sikh holy scripture, but instead to follow him. He proclaims himself the reincarnation of Guru Gobind Singh. In 2002, the government of Punjab banned Ashutosh from preaching anywhere except in his dera, saying he was a threat to law and order. Shamefully, the Badal government lifted that order. Ashutosh preaches against and insults keeping Kesh, wearing the 5 Ks, reading Gurbani, following the Shabad Guru, and going to the Gurdwara Ashutoah’s followers claim that they are the ‘true Khalsa’ and oppose Amritdharis. “Ashutosh, who is from Bihar, was brought to Punjab by Indian authorities to create his cult as part of the Indian regime’s divide-and-rule strategy,” said Dr. Aulakh.

Over 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered since 1984. In addition, the Indian government has murdered more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, almost 100,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Manipuris, Tamils, Dalits, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government’s murders of Sikhs **“worse than a genocide.”**

According to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! A couple of years ago, 35 Sikhs were arrested for making speeches in support of Khalistan and raising the Khalistani flag. In addition, Amnesty International reports that “tens of thousands” of minorities are being held as political prisoners.

India is a multinational state thrown together by the British colonialists for their administrative convenience. As Steve Forbes pointed out in his excellent *Forbes* magazine article “India, Meet Austria-Hungary,” history shows that such countries collapse, from the Austro-Hungarian Empire to the Soviet Union to Czechoslovakia to Yugoslavia. The breakup of India is inevitable. Events such as this seminar help to ensure that it occurs peacefully.

“As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, **‘If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh’**,” Dr. Aulakh noted. “We must continue to pray for and work for our God-given birthright of freedom,” he said. “Without political power, religions cannot flourish, repression continues, and nations perish.”

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Release Instructions: *Immediate, March 11, 2010*

Ravi Inder Singh Betrays Sikh Nation *Says Demand for Khalistan ‘Not in Interest of Sikh Nation’* Broke With Badal But Is Just Like Him

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 11, 2010 – Former Punjab MLA Ravi Inder Singh, leader of the Shiromani Akali Dal (1920), said at a meeting in Ludhiana that “the demand for Khalistan is not in the interests of the Sikh Nation.” This is a betrayal of the Sikh Nation.

“The Akalis of 1920 were brave souls who gave most of the sacrifices for the independence of India,” said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. “They were real Sikhs and real Akalis,” he said. “They fought for the interests of the Sikh Nation. They formed the SGPC. If Ravi Inder Singh is really a 1920 Akali, he should be working to free Khalistan, not acting as a stooge for the Indian government.”

Guru Gobind Singh Sahib gave sovereignty to the Sikh Nation (“*In grieb Sikhin ko deon Patshahi.*”) Sikhs must aspire to freedom. There is no other choice for the Sikh Nation but a sovereign, independent Khalistan. Does Ravi Inder Singh think that he is smarter than Guru Gobind Singh or that he is a better Sikh than Guru Gobind Singh? As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, “***If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh.***”

Jathedar Darshan Singh is not the only Akal Takht Jathedar who supports Khalistan. Speaking at a parade in New York in 2008, Jathedar Joginder Singh Vedanti said that “Khalistan is essential for the survival of the Sikh Nation.” Shortly thereafter, he was forced out by the Badal-controlled Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC.) The SGPC also forced Bhai Ranjit Singh out as Akal Takht Jathedar after he endorsed Khalistan. Former Members of Parliament such as Simranjit Singh Mann and Atinder Pal Singh have publicly endorsed freedom for Khalistan. Last month, Sardar Mann said that “Sikhs are a sovereign nation and they will have an independent Sikh raj. No power on Earth can stop it.” Does Ravi Inder Singh believe that he is a smarter, better Sikh than three former Akal Takht Jathedars and former Members of Parliament? What is the real difference between Ravi Inder Singh and his former ally, Chief Minister Badal?

Every Sikh leader must come out openly for Khalistan. Those who do not will be remembered as traitors. The Sikh Nation needs leadership that is honest, sincere, consistent, and dedicated to the cause of Sikh freedom.

Over 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered since 1984. In addition, the Indian government has murdered more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, almost 100,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Manipuris, Tamils, Dalits, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government’s murders of Sikhs “**worse than a genocide.**”

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“People like Badal and Ravi Inder Singh should be ashamed of themselves,” said Dr. Aulakh. “We must continue to pray for and work for our God-given birthright of freedom,” he said. “Without political power, religions cannot flourish, repression continues, and nations perish.”

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Release Instructions: *Immediate, March 11, 2010*

Governor of Punjab Calls for Return of Chandigarh, Punjabi-Speaking Areas *Says Punjab's River Water Property of Punjab* Return Them to Punjab Immediately

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 11, 2010 – Addressing the opening session of the Punjab Legislative Assembly recently, Punjab Governor Shivraj V. Patil called for the return of Chandigarh and the Punjabi-speaking areas to Punjab. He also said that the river waters of Punjab are Punjab's property and should remain with Punjab or there should be compensation for the transfer of the water.

In the Indian system, the governor is a representative of the national government. The head of the state government is the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister of Punjab, Parkash Singh Badal, has taken no action on any of these goals.

“We appreciate Governor Patil's remarks,” said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. “We are pleased to hear him endorse these policies and we agree with him completely on these points,” he said. “It is a sad irony that the Indian government's representative in Punjab is more supportive of Sikh rights than the Chief Minister is. We hope this is an indication that Delhi plans to hand these lands back to Punjab. This should be done immediately.

When Captain Amarinder Singh was Chief Minister, he cancelled the water agreement with Rajasthan. At that time, the Punjab Legislative Assembly stated that Punjab is a sovereign state. “We appreciate this action by Captain Amarinder Singh,” said Dr. Aulakh. “It is more than Chief Minister Badal has seen fit to do.”

Chandigarh was built by the Punjab government to be the capital of Punjab and should belong to Punjab. However, it was made a Union territory in 1965 when Punjab was broken up by the Indian government. “This was just one more action in India's effort to eliminate the Sikh people, nation, and religion,” said Dr. Aulakh. “The sooner that these lands are returned to Punjab, the better.”

Over 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered since 1984. In addition, the Indian government has murdered more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, almost 100,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Manipuris, Tamils, Dalits, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs **"worse than a genocide."**

According to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984!

India is a multinational state thrown together by the British colonialists for their administrative convenience. As Steve Forbes pointed out in his excellent *Forbes* magazine article “India, Meet Austria-Hungary,” history shows that such countries collapse, from the Austro-Hungarian Empire to the Soviet Union to Czechoslovakia to Yugoslavia. The CIA reports that India will break up by 2015. The breakup of India is inevitable.

“We thank Governor Patil for speaking out on behalf of Punjab,” said Dr. Aulakh. “We must continue to pray for and work for our God-given birthright of freedom,” he said. “Reclaiming our lands and our waters is the first step towards achieving sovereignty for our homeland, Khalistan. We thank Governor Patil for his stand.”

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Contact: B. Singh 202 337-1904
Release Instructions: *Immediate, March 11, 2010*

Three Sikhs Beheaded by Taliban *Barbarous Criminal Act Condemned World Over* Would Not Have Happened If Khalistan Were Free

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 11, 2010 – Three Sikhs were beheaded by the Taliban in Waziristan, according to a report in the February 22 issue of the *Economic Times*. The three Sikhs, Jaspal Singh, Sarabjit Singh and Baronat Singh, had gone to collect money owed to them by people in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) when the Taliban kidnapped them. The kidnappers told them to embrace Islam or face death. When they refused, they were beheaded and their severed heads were sent to the Bhai Joga Singh Gurudwara in Peshawar. The Sikh Nation condemns this barbarous criminal act.

According to the Reuters news service, two other Sikhs were rescued from the Taliban by Pakistani security forces on March 1. A security official told Reuters that "some terrorists have also been killed in the fighting." The rescued Sikhs had been kidnapped for ransom by the Taliban, who were demanding Rs1 crore.

"We appreciate the efforts of the Pakistani security forces," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, "and we are glad that these two Sikhs were rescued. However, if we had an independent Khalistan, we would have had our own army to free those Sikhs and the three Sikhs who were beheaded," he said. "But we don't have a free Khalistan, so the Sikh Nation gets weaker and weaker," he said. "Everyone attacks it."

Dr. Aulakh noted that Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, a Sikh, had apologized for the November 1984 Delhi massacre in which over 20,000 Sikhs were killed, but he has not apologized for the June 1984 attack on the Golden Temple or for the genocide against the Sikhs in which over 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered since 1984.

In addition to more than a quarter of a million Sikhs, the Indian government has murdered more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, almost 100,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Manipuris, Tamils, Dalits, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs **"worse than a genocide."**

According to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! A couple of years ago, 35 Sikhs were arrested for making speeches in support of Khalistan and raising the Khalistani flag. In addition, Amnesty International reports that "tens of thousands" of minorities are being held as political prisoners. "These prisoners never committed any crime but peacefully speaking out for Sikh freedom," said Dr. Aulakh. "What is a democracy doing holding political prisoners?," he asked. "This alone shows that for Sikhs and other minorities, there is no democracy, no freedom of speech."

In the November 16-30, 2008 issue of *Dalit Voice*, V.T. Rajshekar wrote, "It is only the Brahminical people who say India is a 'nation' while the history says Indian was never, ever a nation." India is a multinational state thrown together by the British colonialists for their administrative convenience. As Steve Forbes pointed out in his excellent *Forbes* magazine article "India, Meet Austria-Hungary," history shows that such countries collapse, from the Austro-Hungarian Empire to the Soviet Union to Czechoslovakia to Yugoslavia. The breakup of India is inevitable. Events such as this seminar help to ensure that it occurs peacefully.

"As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, '**If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh**,'" Dr. Aulakh noted. "We must continue to pray for and work for our God-given birthright of freedom," he said. "Without political power, religions cannot flourish, repression continues, and nations perish."

##30##

[Press release is also available at our website, www.khalistan.com]

This material is circulated by the Council of Khalistan, which is registered with the Department of Justice (DOJ) in Washington, DC under the Foreign Agents Registration Act as an agent of the Council of Khalistan, Golden Temple, Amritsar, Punjab. The material is filed with the DOJ where the required registration is available for inspection. Registration does not indicate approval of the contents by the U.S. Government.

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2010 MAR -3 PM 2:05



Council of Khalistan Press Release



'RECOGNIZE YE ALL THE HUMAN RACE AS ONE'

Guru Gobind Singh Ji, Tenth Master

www.khalistan.com

Email: khalistan@khalistan.com

Contact: B. Singh (202) 337-1904

Release Instructions: Immediate, January 21, 2010

Sikhs Protest Indian Genocide on Republic Day *Sikhs Mourn Murders of Over 250,000 Sikh Brothers and Sisters* No Democracy for Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, Other Minorities

WASHINGTON, D.C., January 21, 2010 – India declared itself a republic on January 26, 1950, formally adopting its constitution, written by the Dalit ("untouchable") leader Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. But India is not a republic. It is a Hindu theocracy where minorities are routinely murdered, oppressed, and humiliated. Since 1984, India has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs. Another 52,000 are being held as political prisoners. Police officers were paid more than 41,000 cash bounties to kill Sikhs. In addition, more than 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims and 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat have died at the hands of the government. The Indian government has killed over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland as well as tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities. In the words of Narinder Singh, a spokesman for the Golden Temple, the seat of the Sikh religion, who was interviewed in August 1997 by National Public Radio, "The Indian government, all the time they boast that they are secular, that they are democratic. But they have nothing to do with a democracy, nothing to do with a secularism. They just kill Sikhs to please the majority."

What is there for Sikhs and other minorities to celebrate? The essence of democracy is the right to self-determination, but for minorities there is no self-determination. As Representative Dana Rohrabacher (R-Cal.) has said, "For the people of Jammu and Punjab and Kashmir, India might as well not be a democracy. For them, India might as well be Nazi Germany. The January 15-30, 2010 issue of *Dalit Voice* writes of India's "treacherous relationship with Nazi Germany which they desperately cultivated in the hope that Hitler would defeat Britain, their hated enemy which ruled India then."

A major force in India is the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), an organization that *Dalit Voice* describes as a "Brahminical terrorist organization." It was formed in support of the Fascist movement. The main opposition party, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), is the political arm of the RSS. The RSS published a booklet on how to implicate Christians in false criminal cases. The RSS and its branches have been implicated in major acts of violence and terrorism. Even worse, according to *Dalit Voice*, is "the more deadly Brahminical terrorist outfit called the Abhinav Bharat, headed by a serving Indian army officer, Lt. Col. [Shrikant Prasad] Purohit, now in jail for many terrorist killings along with his gang." Purohit procured RDX explosives for a train blast and planned a Hindu government in exile. The Indian government is involved in Lt. Col. Purohit's activities. That is not India's only involvement with terrorism. According to the January 2, 2002 issue of the *Washington Times*, India is sponsoring cross-border terrorism in the Pakistani province of Sindh. India has spent \$1.3 billion in Afghanistan to undermine the interests of Pakistan. It gave \$1.5 billion to the late governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, to propagate and support covert state terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir, according to the Indian newspaper *Hitavada*.

For Sikhs, the only way out of this quagmire is to free their homeland, Khalistan, from its occupation by India. In a free Khalistan, Sikhs will flourish and have the respect of the international community. In a free Khalistan, Sikhs can live with honor and dignity among the other nations of the world. We must have our own representatives to the United Nations and other international organizations.

As soon as Khalistan is free, per capita income will increase manyfold. There are three million Sikhs outside India. They are anxious to help their Sikh brothers and sisters back home as soon as Khalistan is free. If every Sikh outside India invested \$5000 in free Khalistan, that would amount to 1.5 billion dollars. This would transform Punjab from a poverty-stricken country where farmers are forced to sell their crops at below-market rates to a prosperous land like Europe. And Sikhs would not be the only ones who would invest. Other people who were looking to make a profit would invest in a thriving, prosperous Khalistan. The farmers of Khalistan would be able to sell their produce internationally at market rates, which would double, triple, or even quadruple the price they could receive. This would bring enormous prosperity to the farmers of Khalistan.

"Only freedom for Khalistan will end the repression and allow the people of Punjab, Khalistan to live in freedom, dignity, and prosperity," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, the organization leading the struggle to liberate Khalistan. "Remember Khalsa Bagi Yan Badshah," he said. "Democracies don't commit genocide. Republic Day should be a day of mourning, not celebration" Dr. Aulakh said. "It is time for India to live up to the principles of its constitution and protect and extend freedom for all. And it is time to start a *Shantmai Morcha* to end the Indian occupation and liberate Khalistan."

##30##

This material is circulated by the Council of Khalistan, which is registered with the Department of Justice (DOJ) in Washington, DC under the Foreign Agents Registration Act as an agent of the Council of Khalistan, Golden Temple, Amritsar, Punjab. The material is filed with the DOJ where the required registration is available for inspection. Registration does not indicate approval of the contents by the U.S. Government.

Wednesday, 14 April 2010

Dal Khalsa swears by sovereign self-rule for Sikhs

HOSHIARPUR: Sharply differing with Akali leadership in addressing the issues dogging the Sikh identity, the Dal Khalsa on the auspicious occasion of Khalsa Sajna Divas (birth of Khalsa) talked of unfinished agenda of sovereign self-rule for Sikhs.

The Khalsa Panth is not just a religious body but also a sovereign political entity. Throughout the centuries, the Sikhs have had a unique place among the people of world, developing into a distinct nation in their own right. The concept of sovereignty and statehood is a fundamental part of our very existence.

Resolution to this effect was adopted at a meeting of office bearers held under the leadership of H S Dhami to commemorate birth anniversary of the Khalsa Panth.

The resolution further reads, "Today is our National day. Though British suspended the political sovereignty of the Sikh Nation with the annexation of Punjab in 1849 yet we, the Sikhs, remain a Nation though subjugated. Sikhs as a nation has been struggling for its freedom against all odds, refusing to submit to those who aim to eliminate their identity". In another resolution the conference demanded commuting of death sentence of Prof Devinder Pal Singh Bhullar and release of all political prisoners including Bhai Daljeet Singh languishing in jails since long.

The Dal Khalsa that traces its roots to Baisakhi incident in which 13 Sikhs were gunned down by neo-Nirankaris in Amritsar 32 years ago, urged Sikh groups to foster unity to achieve the Sikh goal for independence. The president opined that the community that has sacrificed fifty thousand youth can't abandon its aims and goals half-way.

Reasserting their unique identity, the gathering appealed to Sikhs to reject the imposition of Hindi language, Hindu Marriage Act, Bollywood culture and influx of migrants into the state which if not checked would reduce the Sikhs to a minority in their own homeland and alter the identity of Punjab forever.

"Need of the hour is to shun all differences and promote brotherhood in the society," he said. Referring to the clash of ideologies over the Nanakshahi calendar and authenticity of Dasam Granth in the recent past, he said, "Enemy agencies are hatching conspiracies to divide us on religious lines. We have to remain united to foil their nefarious designs." He appealed the religious leadership of the community to end confusion on the maryada issues and revoke their arbitrary decision of mixing Nanakshahi with Bikrami calendar.

Prominent amongst others who were present includes Kanwar Pal Singh, Dr Manjinder Singh, Ranbir Singh, Gurdeep Singh, Baldev Singh Ajnala and Dr Arpal Singh.

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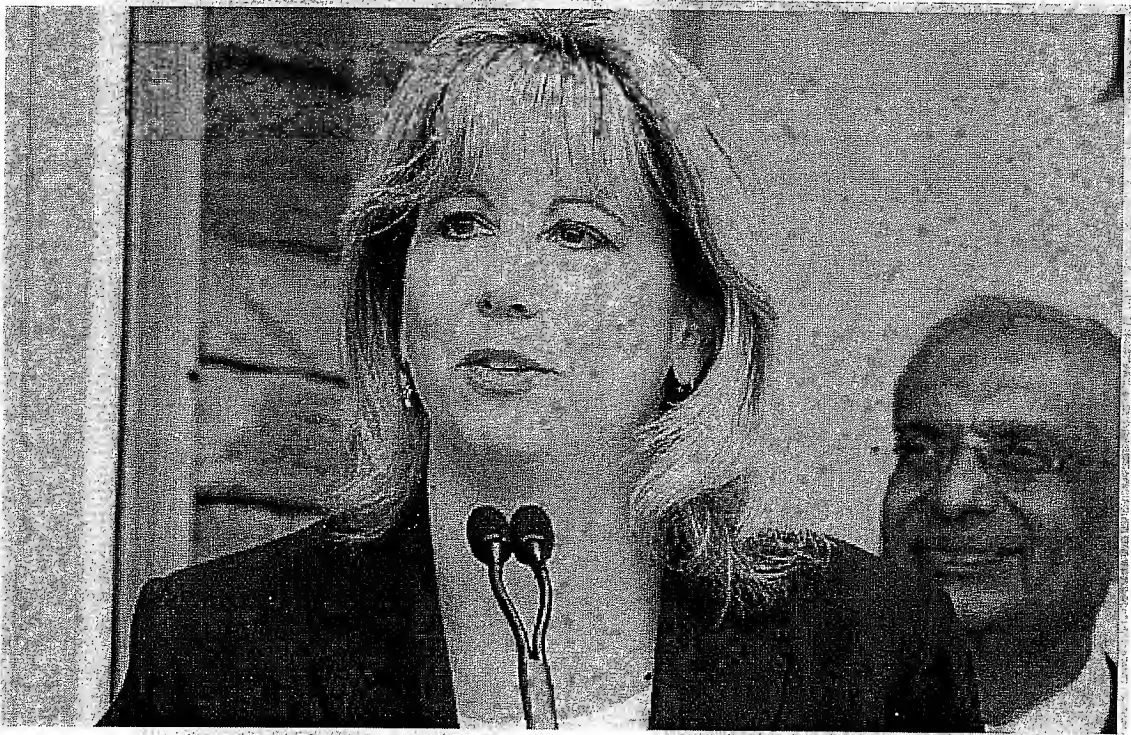


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Surrey Mayor Slanders The Sikh Community!

21 Apr



It's a yearly festivity, where they come together, plan, coordinate and execute. If you're thinking about Vaisakhi, well...your sort of right – but a little wrong.

Every year, the BC Media, elite and politicians have made it an annual event to attack and attempt to discredit the Sikh community – specifically one of Canada's largest celebrations of Vaisakhi in Surrey BC.

Well Viola! Yet again, this years Nagar Keertan in Surrey has become the center of attention with an alleged onslaught of false reporting and accusations made by the media and politicians. To make it worse – the mayor of Surrey has now targetted the community by referring to the Nagar Keertan as a pest, by stating “I’ve had enough of this hornet’s nest called Vaisakhi” – Racist much?

Well check it out, the mayor/media have attempted to justify their behaviour and attack on the community by reporting and claiming that the organizers had agreed not to enter certain floats with certain images – Well, wheres the agreement? And since, when do the following individuals count as terrorists?

- Jaswant Singh Khalsa
- Sant Jarnail Singh
- Bhai Amrik Singh
- General Subeg Singh
- Bhagat Singh
- Baba Thara Singh
- Gurjant Singh Budsingwala

Seriously, if Jaswant Singh Khalsa a man who spoke in parliaments around the world or Bhagat Singh a man celebrated as a hero by the Government of India itself, are terrorists – then extrajudicial murders and imperialist/colonial rule, must be okay!?

Truthfully, enough is enough! Students, activists, elders, comrades and supporters it’s time we show our solidarity against these targeted attacks by responding with the electronic might of the metaphorical pen and start typing. Tell they Surrey Mayor your shocked and concerned about her comments and email her the following letter.

Subject: The Hornets Nest that is 500,000 Canadian Sikhs.
To: DIwatts@surrey.ca

Early this morning, a local newspaper quoted the mayor of Surrey, Dianne Watts as saying that she has “*had enough with this hornet’s nest called Vaisakhi.*” Perhaps out of ignorance or out of sheer arrogance, the statement will forever tarnish the image of Surrey’s Mayoral office as it begins a vehement campaign of disparagement and discrimination against the Canadian Sikh community.

Every year, the city of Surrey is livened as over a hundred thousand Sikhs and their non-Sikhs counterparts parade through the street inspiring to stand in solidarity for the celebration of the birth of the Khalsa. This birth, unknown and fallen deafly upon the ears of the Mayor, is more than just a hornets nest. The Birth of the Khalsa represents a centuries long struggle to free millions from the shackles of spiritual and political slavery, empowering them to take up defence of the defenceless, providing institutions and spaces for equitable engagements without the onerous caste ridden ideologies that discriminated against them putting them on par with the swine and foul that lined the villages of Panjab. This was the pinnacle of a social, spiritual and political revolution that drastically changed the dynamics of Indian society and created such a shift in the paradigm that would forever change the mosaic of India for centuries to come. This was the day of Vaisakhi.




Uncouthly, Mayor Watts has taken an issue that may have had legitimate concerns and expediently turned it into an all out discriminatory attack against the Sikh community. This clumsiness not only reflects in her unfortunate and hurtful words, but her constant statements that Gurdwara Sahib Dasmesh Darbar had provided her and her office

assurances that no so called "controversial" floats would be present. The Gurdwara Sahib Dasmesh Darbar has made no such formal arrangements with the Mayor.

The Canadian Sikh Coalition demands that Mayor Dianne Watts provide substantial evidence that the organizers of the parade had provided written and formal agreements with her and her office that no so called controversial floats would be allowed. It is without doubt that any float that is allowed to enter the parade is firstly inspected by the RCMP. The Canadian Sikh Coalition would also like legal clarification as to how the City can run a religious festival under it's parameters of a clear and distinct separation from church and state. Lastly, the Canadian Sikh Coalition is deeply troubled that blatant lies are being propagated suggesting that the floats contained pictures of Talwinder Singh Parmar and the two Sikhs who assassinated Indira Ghandi. The floats did not contain the images of these individuals. It is incumbent of Mayor Watts that she clarifies why she stated otherwise.

If these statements are not made clear and if they continue to persist, the Gurdwara Sahib Dasmesh Darbar will have no other recourse but to publicly denounce Mayor Watts and ensure that the Sikh community does not support Mayor Watts in any capacity. Most importantly, Mayor Watts will always be seen as an individual with a predisposed bias against the Sikh community.

Regards,

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- Author [ResistSingh](#)

43 Responses to "Surrey Mayor Slanders The Sikh Community!"

1.



[kamlee](#) 21. Apr, 2010 at 10:00 am <#>

She's the real WASP!

2.



[Singh](#) 21. Apr, 2010 at 1:26 pm <#>

Any parade that celebrates terrorist as martyrs is pathetic. Unfortunately too many Vaisakhi day parades honor these terrorists as heroes. No wonder most non-Sikhs see us as Terrorists.....

3.



[Babbar Singh](#) 21. Apr, 2010 at 2:32 pm <#>

To the post above me,

[Home](#) > [Politics & Government](#) > [Government](#) > Resolved Question

Does CIA Plan to Split India By 2015?

Indians are in for a shock therapy at the hands of CIA. The secrets are now out. CIA (read Zionists) want to use India to destroy Pakistan and contain China then break India as well, so much for Indian strategic alliance with US (under the wings of Israel). Image showing a shocking revelation, an army officer, one of the 452 witnesses in the September 29 Malegaon blast case, has revealed in his statement that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had a grand design to split India into smaller independent countries by 2015.

7 months ago

 [Pigeon](#)

Best Answer - Chosen by Asker

wow, look at the ignorance in this f**king country
the CIA never tried to assassinate Fidel Castro in the Pay of Bigs?
the CIA never overthrew MOssadegh in operation Ajax?

well anyway, yeah, that is basically american foreign policy:
DIVIDE & CONQUER

india used to be a lot bigger. before british colonialism, bangladesh and pakistan used to belong to india. but the brits split them up. those indians must feel so proud. today, it certainly does look like mi6 and the cia are trying to push india into a war with pakistan doesn't it?


a "terrorist attack" happens on mumbai. then coincidentally, british and american investigators fly over and all point their fingers at pakistan. what good timing too! now that our economy is in the tank, once pakistan and india goes to war? we sell weapons to both sides! what a sweet deal!

yes, i do think it's in the us gov't's best interests (and british) to divide india. much like a disbanded soviet union. it's easier to control and weakens their economic, military and geopolitical influence

7 months ago

Asker's Rating: 

Great answer

 [Lucifer](#)

Other Answers (4)

- The things that ignorant people believe amazes me.
7 months ago

 [Kayoz](#)

- Very True. Maybe, CIA believe India is a threat to USA.
7 months ago

 [Fizzy](#)


- Yeah.. right! U are pretty stupid.. aren't you!

I think you need to read up on your history...

1. The CIA does not do that kind of stuff.

2. US does not really care much about India.. despite what Indians think of themselves. India is hardly ever in the news in the US, unless it is some major event or news.

3. All the US wants is a market to sell their goods... it has that with India... what else could it ask for.

 [Believe me...](#) India is still a Third World country... maybe a little better than Haiti or Somalia. The place is not even worth the anyone's time to do something there.

5. Keeps a nice balance of power in that region for China & Pakistan.
7 months ago

- Who is your meth supplier?
7 months ago

Echion



Council of Khalistan



‘RECOGNIZE YE ALL THE HUMAN RACE AS ONE’

Guru Gobind Singh Ji, Tenth Master

www.khalistan.com

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Washington, DC 20037 USA

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May 28, 2010

The Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2 Canada

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

I am writing in support of the denial of visas to agents of the Indian Intelligence Bureau (IB) and other officials seeking to attend the G-20 meeting in Toronto. Thank you for standing up for freedom and dignity. I hope that you will stand your ground on this matter.

As you know, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Air India bombing is coming next month. In the run-up to that occasion, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh asked you to be alert for Sikh “separatists.” He billed them as terrorists seeking to bring about violence. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, it is India, including the officials who were denied visas, that is the guilty party. Since the Golden Temple attack of June 1984, according to Inderjit Singh Jaijee's book *The Politics of Genocide*, the Indian regime has murdered over a quarter of a million Sikhs. Another 52,000 are being held as political prisoners, according to a report by the Movement Against State Repression. 50,000 young Sikhs were arrested, tortured, killed, and then declared “unidentified” bodies after being secretly cremated. Their bodies were never returned to their families. In addition, they have killed over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims, 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat, over 15,000 Tamils, over 12,000 Assamese, and tens of thousands of Adivasis, Bodos, Dalits (“Untouchables”, the aboriginal people of South Asia), and other minorities. Currently, there are 17 freedom movements within India's borders.

There is substantial evidence that India itself is responsible for the Air India bombing. Two Canadian journalists, Zuhair Kashmeri of the *Toronto Globe and Mail* and Brian McAndrew of the *Toronto Star*, exposed India's involvement in their excellent book *Soft Target*.

Although the Indian regime continues to try to blame Sikhs for the attack, the evidence is strong and clear that India itself carried out the attack. Ripudaman Singh Malik and Ajaib Singh Bagri were acquitted of all charges in the Air India bombing case, in a major rebuke to the Indian regime. Judge Ian Josephson said that the witnesses against Malik and Bagri were “not credible.” Two days before the bombings, police say a man of East Indian descent went to the Canadian Pacific Airlines ticket office in downtown Vancouver. He paid cash for two tickets.

Airport in Tokyo and then on to India. The other ticket was booked from Vancouver to connect with Air India Flight 182 out of Toronto.

In their book, Kashmeri and McAndrew quoted a Canadian Security Investigative Service (CSIS) investigator as saying, **"If you really want to clear the incidents quickly, take vans down to the Indian High Commission and the consulates in Toronto and Vancouver, load up everybody and take them down for questioning. We know it and they know it that they are involved."**

The book shows that within hours after the flight was blown up, the Indian Consul General in Toronto, Surinder Malik (no relation to Ripudaman Singh Malik), called in a detailed description of the bombing and the names of those he said were involved, information that the Canadian government didn't discover until weeks later. Mr. Malik said to look on the passenger manifest for the name "L. Singh." This would turn out to be Lal Singh, who told the press that he was offered "two million dollars and settlement in a nice country" by the Indian regime to give false testimony in the case.

In his book *Betrayal: The Spy Canada Abandoned*, former Member of Parliament David Kilgour wrote that Canadian-Polish double agent Ryszard Paszkowski was approached to join a plot to carry out a second bombing. The people who approached Paszkowski were connected to the Indian government. Yet India continues to deny involvement and continues to try to blame the Sikhs. The entire purpose of the attack was to try to portray the Sikh Nation as terrorists, as Prime Minister Singh implied to you in Washington,

I hope you will stand up to Indian pressure and continue to exclude the violent representatives of this repressive regime. The violence that they perpetrate should be an embarrassment to all free and democratic nations.

I would like to stay in touch with you on this matter. If there is anything I can do for you, please let me know. Thank you again for standing up for freedom by denying these visas.

Warmest regards,



Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh
President
Council of Khalistan

NSD/CES/REGISTRATION UNIT
2010 AUG -3 PM 2:05



Council of Khalistan



'RECOGNIZE YE ALL THE HUMAN RACE AS ONE'

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May 28, 2010

The Honourable David Cameron
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
10 Downing Street
London, UK

Dear Prime Minister Cameron:

Congratulations on becoming Prime Minister. You won a hard-fought election campaign and we know that your government will do its best to protect and advance the best interests of all the people of the United Kingdom.

Among those people are close to a million Sikhs. They have come to Britain to escape the tyranny of India, where Sikhs are routinely murdered by the regime. Since 1984, according to Inderjit Singh Jaijee's book *The Politics of Genocide*, the Indian regime has murdered over a quarter of a million Sikhs. Another 52,000 are being held as political prisoners, according to a report by the Movement Against State Repression. In that light, we seek to reclaim our lost sovereignty by freeing our homeland, Khalistan. We seek to do so by peaceful, democratic, nonviolent means.

At the time that Britain withdrew from India, Sikhs were supposed to have our independence. No Sikh representative has ever signed the Indian constitution. Yours is a party, a government, and a country based on freedom. I hope you will work to help persuade India to allow the Sikhs to have our freedom.

I would like to stay in touch with you on this matter. If there is anything I can do for you, please let me know. Congratulatin again on becoming Prime Minister.

Warmest regards,

Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh
President
Council of Khalistan



Council of Khalistan



‘RECOGNIZE YE ALL THE HUMAN RACE AS ONE’

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March 11, 2009

OPEN LETTER TO THE SIKH NATION

Beware of Disinformation About This Office ***Critics Trying to Undermine Our Work for Sikh Freedom***

Dear Khalsa Ji:

WAHEGURU JI KA KHALSA, WAHEGURU JI KI FATEH!

Beware of disinformation being spread about me and the work of this office. Critics and opponents of our work for the freedom of the Sikh Nation are saying that all I do is go to Gurdwaras, raise slogans of “Khalistan Zindabad”, and ask for money. Is that all they can come up with?

This office has been working for Sikh freedom for over 25 years. We are your voice in Washington. We have worked hard all that time to represent Sikh interests. It is hard work and it requires money. I greatly appreciate the support all of you have given me and this office and I thank you for it. We could not do what we do without your support. And we cannot continue to do it without your continued support.

In the last year, we have written numerous press releases, open letters, and other materials that have been disseminated worldwide in support of the cause of liberating Khalistan. We have made extensive use of technology such as email and Facebook and other websites to promote the cause of Sikh freedom. I went to Nankana Sahib and raised Khalistan slogans. They were carried by Pakistani TV into India. They were heard in Punjab, Khalistan. I met with the Education Department in Belgium about the issue of allowing Sikh schoolchildren to wear their turbans in school. I visited Ypers, Belgium, where about 500 Sikhs were among the brave troops who gave their lives fighting the Nazis. I went to Germany to propagate the issue of Khalistan. I visited the Gurdwara in Switzerland to promote Khalistan. Before I arrived, Parneet Kaur, the wife of Captain Amarinder Singh and a minister in the Indian government, had been at that Gurdwara to promote India's interests, so my presence was very well-timed. I snubbed Parneet Kaur. I met with the mayor of Brussels to promote the interests of Sikhs there. And all of this has been just within the past year.

Since the opening of this office, we have worked to maintain a correct history of the Sikh Nation and its struggle for freedom, combatting the Indian government's efforts at changing Sikh history, through our contacts in the United States Congress. From then until now, we have provided information that has been the basis of both statements and actions in the United States Congress. Check the *Congressional Record* for information that we have helped to provide to Members of Congress. And it was because of the information we provided and efforts we made that Congress has on more than one occasion cut aid to India.

We have been active in defending the interests of the Sikh Nation on turban issues. We have worked to support those who have gotten in trouble for carrying kirpans. When prominent Sikhs such as Simranjit Singh Mann have been arrested and/or charged, we have worked to secure their release. We have fought to expose the secret cremations policy, to get the political prisoners in Punjab released, and for the farmers of Punjab to get fair market value for their crops. We have been vocal and active in supporting the retention of Punjab's water.

In 1999, the Khalsa Panth celebrated its 300th anniversary. The big parade in Washington was organized by this office. We had a broad range of Sikhs and Sikh organizations who worked with us on the event, and the

Washington, but noted that it was one of the biggest gatherings of Sikhs ever in this country. I would like to thank everyone who worked with us on that event. It was a major event promoting Sikhism.

This work must continue until the Sikh Nation lives in the glow of freedom that was promised to us. Guru Gobind Singh Sahib gave sovereignty to the Sikh Nation ("*In grieb Sikhin ko deon Patshahi.*") Sikhs must aspire to freedom. There is no other choice for the Sikh Nation but a sovereign, independent Khalistan. Remember the words of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Professor Darshan Singh: "***If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh.***" This is the work we have been doing since this office opened.

The Indian government has kept Punjabi-speaking areas out of Punjab while supporting an influx of Hindus into Punjab. As you know, Sikhs are prohibited from buying land in Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. Yet there are no restrictions on land ownership in Punjab by non-Punjabi Hindus. People from anywhere can buy land in Punjab, including people from Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. India is trying to subvert Khalistan's independence by overrunning Punjab with non-Sikhs while keeping Sikhs from escaping the brutal repression in Punjab. We must prevail upon the political leadership in Punjab to get these Sikh lands back from Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. They rightfully belong to Punjab.

On several occasions, Sikhs were arrested for making speeches in support of Khalistan and raising the Khalistani flag. The Indian regime is clearly worried about the rising tide in support of Sikh sovereignty. In Nankana Sahib, faced with 15,000 Sikhs chanting "Khalistan Zindabad," the regime sent its consul to meet with me to try to stop my efforts to liberate Khalistan. The Brahminocracy realizes that this office is effective. Yet our critics spread these false charges to destroy the work of this office.

India is not a single country. It is a polyglot of many nations thrown together by the British colonialists for their administrative convenience. It has 18 official languages. History shows that such countries do not long endure. Austria-Hungary, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia are some examples. The breakup of India is inevitable. We pray that it will be peaceful like the breakup of Czechoslovakia and not violent like that of Yugoslavia.

Sikhs will never get any justice from Delhi. Ever since independence, India has mistreated the Sikh Nation, starting with Patel's memo labelling Sikhs "a criminal tribe." What a shame for Home Minister Patel and the Indian government to issue this memorandum when the Sikh Nation gave over 80 percent of the sacrifices to free India. How can Sikhs continue to live in such a country? There is no place for Sikhs in supposedly secular, supposedly democratic India. In a free Khalistan, minorities will have equal rights and all will be respected.

We will continue this vital work for the Khalsa Panth. These smears are a testimony to the effectiveness of this office and the lack of imagination of those who attack us. If all they can come up with is that I ask for money, then I know that their criticisms are failing. We cannot continue this work without money. We have shown how we use the money we raise. Money spent by this office has brought very high return to the Sikh Nation. We have internationalized the struggle for the independence of Khalistan and exposed the human-rights violations against the Sikh Nation by the Indian government. What are these critics doing to promote the interests of the Khalsa Panth?

May Guru bless the Khalsa Panth.

Sincerely,



Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh
President
Council of Khalistan



Council of Khalistan



'RECOGNIZE YE ALL THE HUMAN RACE AS ONE'

Guru Gobind Singh Ji, Tenth Master

www.khalistan.com

730 24th St. NW, Suite 310
Washington, DC 20037 USA

Email: khalistan@khalistan.com
Phone and Fax: (202) 337-1904

April 22, 2010

Subject: Political Asylum Application of Kulbir Singh

To Immigration Department, Hong Kong:

As President of the Council of Khalistan, leading internationally the Sikh Nation's struggle for independence and human rights, I am writing in support of the political asylum case of Kulbir Singh, who is seeking political asylum. If he is sent back to India, Kulbir Singh faces harassment, illegal detention, torture and quite possibly death, at the hands of Indian security forces.

Kulbir Singh is a supporter of Khalistan, the sovereign Sikh homeland that declared its independence on October 7, 1987. For his peaceful activities in support of this cause, he has been tortured by the Indian police. Kulbir Singh has been involved in the struggle for Sikh freedom since 1987. He left India for Germany in 1995. He returned to India and has been blacklisted since 2007 by court order.

Kulbir Singh helped the murdered human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khaira in his investigation and reporting about the secret cremations of Sikh youth. He provided information against Nihang Poola and Bhaniara and their followers, including information about violence and killings committed by those people.

If he is returned to India, Kulbir Singh is certain to be arrested, tortured, and murdered by the police. He will be another casualty in the Indian government's all-out war against the Sikhs and anyone who helps them. That war has taken the lives of over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. The U.S. State Department reported that between 1991 and 1993, the Indian government paid more than 41,000 cash bounties to police officers to murder Sikhs. Tens of thousands of Sikhs are being held as political prisoners without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal detention since 1984.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh
President
Council of Khalistan

US Religious Freedom Body Puts India on Watch List

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PTI)

— India is among the countries which have been put on the “Watch List” of a bipartisan American panel on global religious freedom, which termed its progress in protecting the rights of minorities as mixed.

Putting India on the “watch list” for the second year in succession, the U.S. Commission for International Religious Freedom in its report said the Indian government at various levels recognized the problem of communal violence and created some structures to address these issues.

Dan Burton Wins; Ohio Statehouse Hopeful Advances Unopposed

By RICHARD SPRINGER

India West Staff Reporter

Fourteen-term Republican Congressman Dan Burton of Indiana, long a thorn in India's side for his record of anti-India votes in Congress, survived a challenge by six opponents in the Republican primary May 4 and won with just 30 percent of the ballots cast in Indiana's 5th congressional district election. He will be favored to defeat the Democratic Party candidate in the conservative district in the November general election.

Burton pulled in 29,391 votes, with former state Representative Luke Messer placing second with 25,117 and John McGoff in the third spot with 19,069 votes.

In other election results, Niranjan "Neil" Patel of Westerville, Ohio, a hotel and insurance agency businessman and a former owner of Dunkin' Donuts outlets (I-W, Sept. 29, 2009), advanced unopposed in the Democratic primary for the state Senate seat in Ohio's 19th district.



Rep. Dan Burton, seen here in an earlier photo, won in the Indiana primary May 4. (Getty Images)

He will oppose Republican Kris Jordan, a state Representative and former Delaware County commissioner, in November. Jordan beat his closest challenger by more than 6,500 votes in a three-person race in the GOP primary.

In the election for trustee on the Independent School District board in Plano, Texas, Raj Menon, a management strategy consultant (I-W, Feb. 26, 2010), was defeated May 8 by Carolyn Moebius, an administrator at a small animal hospital. The India-born Menon has been active with the school board and the local PTA since 2004.

Sikhs to Retain 'Articles of Faith' While Serving in U.S. Army

By a Staff Reporter

NEW YORK, N.Y. — U.S. army

captains Tejdeep Singh Rattan and Kalamjeet Singh Kalsi are the first Sikh Americans in over two



U.S. Army captains Kalamjeet Singh Kalsi and Tejdeep Singh Rattan were recognized at a City Hall event in New York City. (William Alabriste photo)

decades to be accommodated by the army to serve on active duty while retaining their beards, turbans and other articles of religious faith, said a press release.

The two captains were honored by City Council speaker Christine Quinn and Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney at city hall here April 23.

"They (Rattan and Kalsi) exemplify how it's possible to serve our country without compromising

religious customs. We join the Sikh community in celebrating this significant achievement," said Quinn.

Maloney, who played a pivotal role in the accommodations made for the two captains, said, "No American should have to choose between their religion and their service to our nation. I will continue to ensure that all Sikh Americans are able to serve

their country without forsaking

the central tenets of their faith. He had led a number of House and Senate colleagues in sending letters to Defense Secretary Robert Gates requesting that Sikh Americans wishing to serve be permitted to preserve their "articles of faith."

Rattan recently graduated from the U.S. Army Officer Course while Kalsi begins his training this summer.

Singh, Tendulkar Among Time's 100 Most Influential

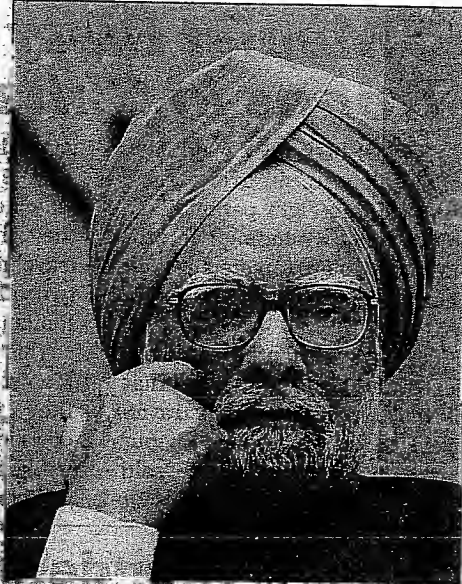
By BETWA SHARMA
Press Trust of India

NEW YORK — Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar and Nobel-winning economist Amartya Sen are among nine Indians who figure in the annual Time magazine list of 100 most influential people while its alumnae chart is topped by Bollywood beauty Aishwarya Rai Bachchan.

Other Indians on the list of most influential people are: Eye specialist Perumalsamy Nambiar, humanitarian worker Sanjit

Buker Roy, writer Chetan Bhagat, Indian American doctor and Harvard professor Atul Gawande, paramedic from Toronto Rahul Singh and entrepreneur Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw.

The magazine recognized Prime Minister Singh's contribution towards liberalizing the economy



Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has been named to Time magazine's annual list of the 100 most influential people. (Getty Images)

and guiding India into the "ranks of the great powers."

"The long history of India boasts many great leaders. But the much shorter history of Indian democracy is already creating its own heroes, and Manmohan Singh, 77, is one of them," Indra Nooyi, CEO of Pepsi, wrote in the magazine.

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782-M Indians Living on Under \$2 Per Day by 2015

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PTT) — A whopping 782 million Indians will be living on less than two dollars a day by 2015, a joint report by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund said here April 23.

The report, titled "Global Monitoring Report 2010: The MDGs After the Crisis," however said the number of poor Indians living on less than two dollars would moderately decline to 686 million by 2020.

Taxes

Nonprofits must file new tax form

Exempt status in jeopardy

By JEAN HOPFENSPERGER

MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE

As many as 400,000 nonprofits nationwide are slated to lose their tax-exempt status next week — an event being dubbed “doomsday.”

At midnight May 15, any group that hasn't filed a new tax form will lose the tax break that is the lifeblood of most small nonprofits. It allows them to raise money tax-free and lets the public write off donations to them.

For decades, nonprofits that raised less than \$25,000 a year didn't have to file tax returns. Thousands apparently don't have a clue that changed in 2006.

“This could be the largest loss of organizations in the last 80 years,” said Jon Pratt, executive director of the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits. “We're trying to get the word out.”

If they miss the deadline to file new tax forms, these small nonprofits would have to start paying taxes on the money they raise. Fundraising could become tougher, because most contributors like to get tax breaks for their donations.

Given the tight financial situation facing most nonprofits and charities, the tax breaks could make or break an organization, Mr. Pratt said.

Dick Ward didn't know that his American Legion Post 1 was slated to lose its tax status after more than 90 years of doing charitable work in Minneapolis. Mr. Ward learned about the new tax rules from a reporter's inquiry this week.

“I thought, what's going on?” said Mr. Ward, the post commander.

He quickly called the Minnesota America Legion, which sent him an article about the tax changes published in its newspaper in May 2008. That was two years after Congress amended the law to track non-

profits closer. This year is the first requiring mandatory filing of the new IRS forms.

Mr. Ward sat down at his home computer with the newspaper article and clicked onto the IRS website. He typed in his federal tax identification number and filled out the electronic 990-N form that is now the law of the land. It took about 35 minutes to complete.

“If you have your current tax ID number and you're an officer who can represent your organization, it doesn't take long,” he said.

This week, the Council on Nonprofits pulled together a list of the 7,500 organizations that still haven't filed tax returns. Many are household names. It includes chapters of Habitat for Humanity International, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), 18 chapters of the American Association of University Women and dozens of chapters of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

Figuring out which of these nonprofits are active organizations is critical in the next few days, Mr. Pratt said. In theory, organizations should have been notified by the IRS three years ago that they needed to file the new forms.

In Mr. Ward's case, he helped his post's women's auxiliary fill out its forms last year. The auxiliary had received a notice of the tax changes, but the Legion post did not, Mr. Ward said.

That has been a problem, Mr. Pratt said. The address listed with the IRS may no longer be the current address of an organization, especially if it's an older organization that hasn't filed a tax return for decades. “The address listed could be of a secretary 20 years ago,” Mr. Pratt said.

• Distributed by Scripps Howard.

US Religious Freedom Body Puts India on Watch List

WASHINGTON, D.C. (PTI) — India is among the countries which have been put on the "Watch List" of a bipartisan American panel on global religious freedom, which termed its progress in protecting the rights of minorities as mixed.

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list" for the second year in succession, the U.S. Commission for International Religious Freedom in its report said the Indian government at various levels recognized the problem of communal violence and created some structures to address these issues.

Pride of Sikh Community Award

LONDON (PTI) — Sir Mota Singh QC, first Indian-origin Sikh to be knighted this year by the Queen for his services to the administration of justice, has been chosen for the Pride of Sikh Community Award.

Recipient of a number of lifetime achievement awards, Sir Mota Singh went into chambers here to practice at the bar in 1965. Within just 11 years, Singh was appointed a Deputy Judge, Queen's Counsel, a Recorder of the Crown Courts and then a Circuit Judge.

Pay, and pay again, to play

Want to do a deal in Prince George's County? How deep are your pockets?

W EIGHING IN AT just 20 or so pages, the lawsuit filed by a Maryland developer against top officials and politically connected operatives in Prince George's County doesn't seem to have much heft. But the allegations themselves — of county lawmakers operating what amounts to a shakedown racket — are plenty damning. Just as damning is the core of the county's own defense, part of which amounts to the following: Hey, so what if we solicited bribes? Everyone does it!

The genesis of the lawsuit is a preliminary agreement signed by the county in 2008 to lease two floors of an office building at the New Carrollton Metro station. It was reached after what the developer, Arun Luthra, says were scores of conversations he had with County Executive Jack B. Johnson. But final approval of the terms — a 10-year deal worth more than \$11 million — had to come from the Prince George's County Council. That, it seems, was the rub.

According to the complaint, now pending in Prince George's County circuit court, Mr. Luthra was first approached by a commercial real estate broker who said the council wouldn't seal the

deal unless Mr. Luthra paid him a 3 percent commission upfront — \$341,000. Mr. Johnson told Mr. Luthra to ignore the broker, named Charles Dukes. But Mr. Dukes insisted that the County Council, not Mr. Johnson, had the last word on leases, the complaint says. (Mr. Dukes told us he "flatly" denies any wrongdoing.)

Mr. Luthra was then called by Michael Arrington, a lobbyist who once controlled a \$3.5 million slush fund on behalf of Mr. Johnson until he was removed amidst a scandal. Mr. Arrington, who did not return our phone call, advised the developer that the lease would stand a better chance of approval if he donated \$50,000 to the Prince George's County Presidential Inaugural Committee, which was allegedly controlled by two council members — Camille Exum (D-Seat Pleasant) and Chairman Marilyn M. Bland (D-Clinton). Mr. Luthra coughed up \$4,000 for the committee and hired Mr. Arrington to lobby the council on his behalf, to the tune of \$5,000 per month.

Next in line was council member Tony Knotts (D-Temple Hills), who paid a visit to the developer's office and, according to the lawsuit, told

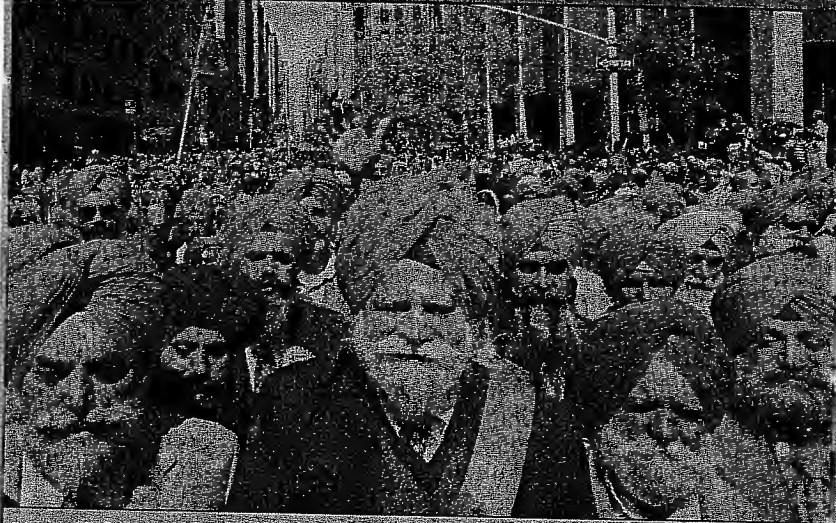
an employee that the lease's odds of approval would improve if Mr. Luthra raised \$40,000 for Mr. Knotts's reelection campaign. Mr. Luthra refused. Amazingly, a lawyer for the county barely bothered to deny some of the most damaging allegations. "A politician's request for campaign fundraising assistance or donations in exchange for a political favor is . . . not unlawful or independently wrongful," the lawyer wrote in court filings defending Mr. Knotts. And in regard to Ms. Exum, the lawyer wrote that trading donations for political favor "is something that occurs daily in the political arena."

Actually, it is wrong, and illegal, for politicians to solicit bribes, which is what some of these allegations suggest happened. It's worth noting that most of the major players in this drama — Mr. Johnson; Mr. Arrington; Ms. Exum; and Ms. Bland — have shown questionable ethical judgment in the past. That, and the gravity of Mr. Luthra's allegations, should be enough to merit the scrutiny of the U.S. attorney in Maryland, Rod J. Rosenstein; the Maryland state prosecutor, Robert A. Rohrbach; and the Prince George's County Attorney, Glenn F. Ivey.

Sunday, April 25, 2010

DAILY NEWS NYDailyNews.com

PRIDE ON THE MARCH



Scores of marchers take part, wearing their traditional dastars, in the annual Sikh Day Parade down Madison Ave. yesterday. Photo by Susan Watts/Daily News

India asks Canada to curb Sikh separatists

WASHINGTON (TIP): Two months before the 25th anniversary of the bombing of Air-India flight Kanishka, India has asked Canada to monitor surging activities of Sikh separatists in that country when Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh met his Canadian counterpart Stephen Harper.

In his 30-minute meeting with Harper on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit at Walter E Washington Convention Centre on Monday evening, Manmohan Singh conveyed his concerns over the surge in activities of Sikh separatists in Canada who are trying to revive militancy in Punjab.

Manmohan Singh conveyed India's continuing concerns over the activities of terrorist organisations in that country, Vishnu Prakash, the spokesperson of India's external affairs ministry, told journalists here after the talks.

Manmohan Singh hoped that the Canadian government will curb and monitor the activities of these organizations, said Prakash.

India has been watching warily a marked resurgence of pro-Khalistan elements in Canada recently and has alerted the Canadian authorities about it many a time.

Last month, India's Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Maken told the Indian parliament that Sikh militant groups, especially those based abroad, continue to persist with their efforts to revive militancy in Punjab. He added that the government is maintaining a close watch on such outfits.

Outfits like the Babbar Khalsa International, International Sikh Youth Federation, Khalistan Commando Force and Khalistan Zindabad Force continue to be banned under India's Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2004.

Recently, the Indian high commission in Ottawa raised the issue of rising activities of Sikh separatist Khalistan movement in Canada with the Canadian government. Canada is one of the few countries, according to the Indian government, where pro-Khalistani elements are becoming active once again. India also is concerned at attempts by some elements to de-list the banned organizations such as the Babbar Khalsa in Canada. Besides airing concerns over the activities of anti-India terrorist organisations, Manmohan Singh also discussed with Harper the forthcoming G20 summit Canada will host in June this year.

Harper sought Manmohan Singh's views on the G20 summit and the need for promoting balanced and sustainable growth, said Prakash. The two leaders also expressed satisfaction at the finalization of a nuclear deal in November last year and hoped it will be signed when Manmohan Singh goes to Canada for the G20 summit.

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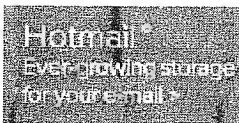
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Policy statement: Dal Khalsa swears by
sovereign self-rule for Sikhs (File attached)From: **Kanwarpal Singh** (dalkhalsamail@gmail.com)

Sent: Wed 4/14/10 7:34 AM

To: Harjinder Singh (harjindersingh@comcast.net)

2 attachments | Download all attachments (608.2 KB)
Dal Khals...doc (28.5 KB), Meeting a...jpg (579.7 KB)

Meeting at Hoshairpur.jpg

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Dal Khalsa swears by sovereign self-rule for Sikhs

Hoshiarpur- Sharply differing with Akali leadership in addressing the issues dogging the Sikh identity, the Dal Khalsa on the auspicious occasion of *Khalsa Sajna Divas* (birth of Khalsa) talked of unfinished agenda of sovereign self-rule for Sikhs.

The Khalsa Panth is not just a religious body but also a sovereign political entity. Throughout the centuries, the Sikhs have had a unique place among the people of world, developing into a distinct nation in their own right. The concept of sovereignty and statehood is a fundamental part of our very existence.

Resolution to this effect was adopted at a meeting of office bearers held under the leadership of H S Dhami to commemorate birth anniversary of the Khalsa Panth.

The resolution further reads, "Today is our National day. Though British suspended the political sovereignty of the Sikh Nation with the annexation of Punjab in 1849 yet we, the Sikhs, remain a Nation though subjugated. Sikhs as a nation has been struggling for its freedom against all odds, refusing to submit to those who aim to eliminate their identity". In another resolution the conference demanded commuting of death sentence of Prof Devinder Pal Singh Bhullar and release of all political prisoners including Bhai Daljeet Singh languishing in jails since long.

The Dal Khalsa that traces its roots to Baisakhi incident in which 13 Sikhs were gunned down by neo-Nirankaris in Amritsar 32 years ago, urged Sikh groups to foster unity to achieve the Sikh goal for independence. The president opined that the community that has sacrificed fifty thousand youth can't abandon its aims and goals half-way.

Reasserting their unique identity, the gathering appealed to Sikhs to reject the imposition of Hindi language, Hindu Marriage Act, Bollywood culture and influx of migrants into the state which if not checked would reduce the Sikhs to a minority in their own homeland and alter the identity of Punjab forever.

"Need of the hour is to shun all differences and promote brotherhood in the society," he said. Referring to the clash of ideologies over the Nanakshahi calendar and authenticity of Dasam Granth in the recent past, he said, "Enemy agencies are hatching conspiracies to divide us on religious lines. We have to remain united to foil their nefarious designs." He appealed the religious leadership of the community to end confusion on the maryada issues and revoke their arbitrary decision of mixing Nanakshahi with Bikrami calendar.

Prominent amongst others who were present includes Kanwar Pal Singh, Dr Manjinder Singh, Ranbir Singh, Gurdeep Singh, Baldev Singh Ajnala and Dr Arpal Singh.

Modi's Questioning Rekindles Zakia Jaffrey's Hope For Justice

Surat/Gandhinagar, Mar 27 (ANI): Zakia Jaffrey, the petitioner and widow of Ehsan Jaffrey, former Congress MP who was allegedly burnt alive during the 2002 communal riots, sees a ray of hope for justice as Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi appeared before a Special Investigation Team (SIT).

On Saturday amid tight security, Modi, was questioned by the Supreme Court appointed SIT, that is investigating into the 2002 Gujarat communal riots, for over five hours.

Jaffrey had filed the petition and alleged that Modi and his administration had aided and abetted the rioters in the incident that has come to be known as the Gulbarg Society massacre on February 28, 2002 where over 60 people, including her husband, were burnt to death in 2002.

Interacting with media in Surat, Jaffrey, said she was optimistic about the SIT probe.

"I can't even explain it to you that how happy I am. Today, he came on TV and every one saw him (going inside the SIT office). And, I believe, everyone must have seen him through my eyes. All my friends, sympathisers and all others who had witnessed the massacre," said Jaffrey.

"I still remember when I stepped down from my house that day, I walked over bodies, and everyone who saw this, also must be feeling that God answers prayers even if he delays. And today, he was finally called; so, of course, he will have to speak something there," she added.

She further said that many wanted Modi to step down from his post.

"It's not just that I am feeling, but every-one is saying that he won't remain chief minister anymore. He will either have to resign or he'll be given punishment," Jaffrey added.

Modi, 59, is the first chief minister of any state to be called for questioning in a criminal complaint of mass murder.

Interacting with media as soon as he emerged out from the SIT office Modi said he would abide by the Indian Constitution.

"I like any other Indian citizen, respect the law and will abide by the Constitution of the country. No one is above law," Modi said.

"I have given a strong reply to those vested interests who have been remarking about my conduct" he added on Saturday afternoon.

Nationwide Outreach Begins on 2010 Census

By RICHARD SPRINGER
India-West Staff Reporter

Census workers fanned out in March to verify valid addresses where people are residing, as work began on the 2010 decennial census.

Vince Khanna, partnership specialist in San Jose, Calif., for the U.S. Census Bureau, emphasized to India-West recently that major decisions affecting all communities in the U.S. regarding grants, where senior centers will be built and other programs depend on the census count.

He said the Census Bureau hopes to form as many as "140,000 community partnerships across the country" over the next few months to get the word out about the census.

In a conference call with the Asian American media March 23 co-hosted by the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and Congressman Mike Honda, D-Calif., Arnold A. Jackson, associate director for the Decennial Census of the Census Bureau, said that the Bureau will increase its hiring of partnership specialists from 680 to 2,700.

He added that 40 percent of the Bureau's media budget for the

2010 census will be targeted to the ethnic media.

Vincent Pan, executive director of Chinese for Affirmative Action, pointed out that local and state governments, unlike in 2000, are suffering from the economy and will not be able to help spend significant funds to supplement federal efforts.

In 2000, the state of California spent about \$25 million for census outreach, with some money going to community groups. This year the state may only spend about \$1 million, Pan said, not enough for any community funding. Jackson added that the Census Bureau doesn't fund community groups directly, so community partnerships will be crucial.

One big change in 2010 is that for the first time since 1930 all addresses in the U.S. will receive just the short form.

In recent censuses, most addresses received two forms: either the short form, which focuses on the population count and demographics, or the long form, which included socioeconomic questions and housing characteristics.

In 2000, for example, about one in six households received the long form.

However, since January 2005,



Vince Khanna, partnership specialist for the U.S. Census Bureau, is also an amateur winemaker. He poses in front of his grape crop at his home in Saratoga, Calif.

Gates Concerned Over Pentagon Official's Private Spying Network In Pak, Afghanistan

Washington, Mar.24 (ANI): US Defence Secretary Robert Gates has expressed concern over media reports regarding a Pentagon official running a private spying network in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

It may be noted that The New York Times had reported that a US Defence official, Michael Furlong, has set up a spying network to track and kill suspected militants in the region under the guise of an information gathering program.

Gates said he needed to know more about such off the books spy operation being run in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"The role of private contractors in collecting



intelligence in the field is something I need to know more about.

We do have reviews and investigations going on to find out what the story is here, to find out what the facts are.

And if it's necessary

to make some changes I'll do that," The Dawn quoted Gates, as saying.

Citing some unnamed military officials and businessmen in Afghanistan and the United States, The New York Times had reported that Furlong had hired contractors from private security companies which employs former Central Investigation Agency (CIA) officials and Special Forces agents.

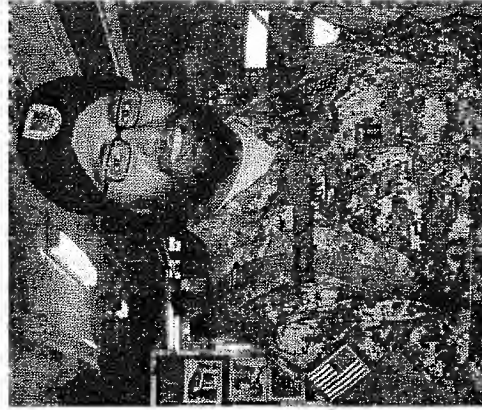
These contractors were supposed to gather intelligence on suspected militants and their hideouts, which was fed to military units and intelligence officials in Afghanistan and Pakistan for use in possible strikes, the newspaper said.

First Turbaned Sikh

Completes U.S. Army Training

Washington, March 24: Thirty-one year old Captain Tejdeep Singh Rattan on Tuesday became the first Sikh officer in the U.S. Army in over two decades to complete basic training without shedding his turban and other articles of faith.

Captain Rattan, a dentist by profession, graduated from Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas making him the first Sikh



Captain Tejdeep Singh Rattan

First Sikh: See Page 12

First Sikh: See Page 12

to successfully complete all aspects of my initial training. I had an overwhelmingly positive experience. I am very thankful to the base command, Army leadership, and my fellow soldiers. I look forward to continuing to serve my country," he said.

Recruited to join the Army's Health Professions Scholarship Programme several years ago, Captain Rattan maintained his turban throughout his dental education.

However, after completing his education, he was told that he must remove the turban and unshorn hair before he began active duty.

Last April, he submitted a request to the

Army asking that he be allowed to maintain his turban and beard while serving the Army.

In December, the Army granted his request.

Contrary to the concerns of some, Captain Rattan was able to meet all requirements of a soldier during basic training, said a statement issued by the Sikh Coalition, which took up the issue of Sikhs joining the U.S. Army with their religious identity intact.

During training Captain Rattan wore a helmet over a small turban during field exercises. During gas mask exercises, he successfully created a seal. He also built strong bonds with the soldiers in his platoon.

"We are pleased

to learn that Tejdeep's experience demonstrates that Sikh service in the US Army meets military necessity," said Harsimran Kaur, Legal Director, Sikh Coalition.

"Turbaned Sikhs previously served the United States' military with distinction in every major armed conflict over the past 100 years. While it is unfortunate that Sikhs were excluded from military for the past two decades, I hope we will soon turn a page and restore Sikh service in the US military," said Ms. Kaur.

In 1981, the Army banned "conspicuous" religious articles of faith for its service members. This included a ban on Sikh turbans and unshorn hair in the Army.

First Sikh in Decades Graduates from Army School

By MICHELLE ROBERTS
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — The soldiers in standard-issue fatigues and combat boots stood side-by-side repeating their creed: "I am an American soldier. I am a warrior and a member of a team. I serve the people of the United States and live the Army values ..."

Capt. Tejdeep Singh Rattan was no different except that he wore a full beard and black turban, the first Sikh in a generation allowed to complete U.S. Army basic officer training without sacrificing the articles of his faith. He completed the nine-week training March 22 after Army officials made an exemption to a policy that has effectively prevented Sikhs from enlisting since 1984.

"I'm feeling very humbled. I'm a soldier," said the 31-year-old dentist, smiling after the ceremony at Fort Sam Houston. "This has been my dream."

Rattan had to get a waiver from the Army to serve without sacrificing the unshorn hair mandated by his faith. An immigrant from India who arrived in New York as a



U.S. Army Capt. Tejdeep Singh Rattan speaks to journalists at a U.S. Army officer basic training graduation ceremony at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, Mar. 22. (AP photo)

teenager, Rattan said he hopes his military commitment will allow him to give back to his adopted home country and will help diminish prejudice Sikhs sometimes face in the U.S.

The Army in 1984 eliminated an exemption that had previously allowed Sikhs to maintain their articles of faith while serving,

but officials can issue individual waivers to the uniform policy after considering the effects on safety and discipline, said Army spokesman George Wright. Only a handful of such individual religious exemptions are ever granted.

Rattan and Dr. Kamaljeet Singh Kalsi, who will attend basic training this summer after completing an

emergency medicine fellowship, are the first Sikhs to receive exemptions in more than 25 years.

"I'm overjoyed by the Army's decision to allow me to serve my country," said Kalsi in an earlier statement (J-W, Oct. 30, 2009). "Like the many Sikhs who fought before me, I know I will serve America with honor and excellence."

Rattan — who received a master's degree in engineering before pursuing a dental education — and Kalsi both offer health care skills that are in high demand in an Army stretched by wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Rattan said he encountered no trouble from fellow soldiers during training.

"The Army is all about what you have to offer. If you're sitting back there, not doing anything, they're definitely going to talk about you. But if you're up there running with them, you have good scores, you run neck-and-neck with them, they love you," he said. "I made a lot of friends."

1st Sgt. Jeffrey DeGarmo said he made sure the officers-in-training in his unit understood that Rattan wasn't a foreign national and had received the Army's permission to maintain his beard and turban. Once the other soldiers understood that, there were no issues, he said.

"It went pretty well," DeGarmo said. "I think he did an outstanding job adjusting."

During training, Rattan wore a helmet over the small turban, which he doesn't remove, and was able to

successfully create a seal with his gas mask despite the beard, resolving the Army's safety concerns, said Harsimran Kaur, the Sikh Coalition's legal director.

Rattan also worked with an Army tailor to create an insignia patch normally worn on soldiers' berets that could be affixed to his black turban, she said.

Before the Army's regulation change in 1984, Sikhs served in the U.S. military during every major armed conflict going back to World War I. Those who joined before the change were allowed to serve with their beards and turbans, but the policy effectively prevented new enlistment of Sikhs, Kaur said.

The coalition continues to push the Army to change the overall policy.

"If government can say to someone, 'You can't serve, not for any reason that has to do with your abilities,' that sends the wrong message," Singh said. "We don't want to be perpetual outsiders."

India and Russia Sign Pacts

By LYDIA POLGREEN

NEW DELHI — India and Russia signed a series of agreements on nuclear, space and military issues on Friday, after a visit by Prime Minister Vladimir V. Putin of Russia.

Mr. Putin's visit, and the warm reception he received here from his Indian counterpart, Manmohan Singh, represent a warming relationship between nations with a long history of friendship that has been challenged by India's increasingly cozy ties to the United States.

The agreements pave the way to build at least a dozen more Russian nuclear power plants for an energy-starved India, and to funnel more Russian weapons to India's military.

The countries also reached agreements to work together on space and fertilizer projects, two crucial areas for India, which has sought to send rockets into space even as its farmers, who make up about 70 percent of the population, struggle to coax subsistence from the soil.

As a pioneer of the Non-Aligned Movement, India was officially neutral in the cold war, but in practical terms it had a much closer relationship with the Soviet Union than it did with the United States, a country it viewed warily for ideological and geopolitical reasons.

In a post-cold-war world, India and Russia remain important allies. India buys the vast majority of its weapons from Russia, and has invested in Russian oil and gas in an effort to guarantee supplies to keep its rapidly growing economy going. The countries

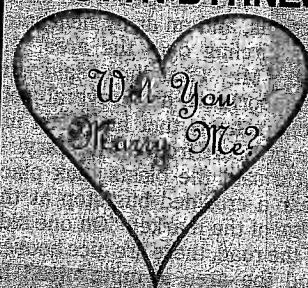
also make up half of the BRIC Group of rapidly growing economies, along with Brazil and China.

Mr. Putin met with top political and business leaders, speaking to a group of industrialists in Mumbai, Bangalore and New Delhi via videoconference.

"Cooperation in high-tech is the priority for us," Mr. Putin told his audience. "The Russian government is ready to directly support this activity, with the help of additional financial assistance."

Russia is already building two nuclear power plants here, and Friday's agreement paves the way for a dozen more. The signing of the nuclear agreement with the United States in 2008 made it possible for India to buy civilian nuclear technology despite its refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Since then firms in the United States, Europe and Russia have been vying to get in on lucrative contracts to build plants in the world's second fastest growing economy.

KRISTYN BYRNES



SAUL RAFEL-FRANKEL

'Mehboob:' Homage to a Sikh Poet

By HARINDER SINGH
Special to India-West

My introduction to Professor Harinder Singh Mehboob's work occurred in Kansas in September 1993. I found the opening paragraphs of "The Rider of the Blue Steed" incredible, a fresh, endearing, and intelligent approach to the "life-movement" of Guru Gobind Singh Sahib. I would meet him four years later on the Vaisakhi day of 1997 at his home in Punjab. I was most impressed with his religious lyrical innocence, unbridled devotion to the Sikh heritage and its institutions, unparalleled evaluation of world literature, uncompromising intellectual honesty and a dervish-like humility and simplicity. For me, his work was the gold standard for exploring aesthetics, history, philosophy, poetry, folk culture, metaphysics, and contemporary diction — and he did it all at the same time.

In the Sikh world, he shall be held in highest esteem not solely as a literary figure, but as a Sikh who inspired Surai — state of consciousness — a way of existing among everything which surrounds us that most can only hope to glimpse during those sacred moments in life, the state

in which "The Way of the Peaceful Warrior" continuously is "Jo hai so hai." Poetry came out of him infused with genius and perfection.

In his outpouring of style, ideas, and images such as khalas-kudrat, vismad-naksh, and vijeer-tark, he captured the Sikh inspiration and transformed it into an exquisite illustration of the Sikh spirit. The most banal experiences were cast in the light of universal truths; the ordinary life of an individual — crowded, busy, and full of uncertainty — is shown to be an elegant and necessary step on one's journey of the ineffable Absolute.

Though he was a professor of English, Prof. Mehboob wrote his major works in Punjabi. He was a product of the Marxist intellectual movement (a norm among Punjabi intellectuals) but embraced the Sikh thought and lifestyle after graduate studies. The ideological leanings, the progressive journey, and personal innovations are all quite visible in his everyday life. After the 1984 genocidal killings of Sikhs in India he became particularly known for his Sikh activism. Celebrated Punjabi poets used to go seek his remarks and approvals before publishing their work.

Mehboob wrote multiple anthologies. His essays, both in English and Punjabi, generated thought-pro-

voking discussions and debates across Punjab's borders.

On reading "Jhana Di Rat," I felt as if I was lost in the streets of Lahore, I re-lived the carefree moments and worryless sleep at Nankana Sahib. The love for Punjab and its co-religionists is gracefully articulated in the old glory of multi-cultural "des (nation)."

"Sahije Rachio Khalsa" is a work rich with Sikh traditions and feelings. Its poetic prose exemplifies the believer's conviction. I believe if this work were to be translated into English, it would establish the universality of Sikh thought at a global level.

Prof. Mehboob's work should be viewed as acts of service. The religious and poetic traditions that produced Prof. Harinder Singh Mehboob, Bhai Vir Singh, and Prof. Puran Singh can be said to understand all of creation as providing the metaphors of Divine Qualities. Like the Sufi poets Abdur Rahman Jami and Jalaluddin Rumi, Mehboob's poetry inhabits many dimensions of life simultaneously.

(Harinder Singh — no relation to the poet Harinder Singh Mehboob commemorated above — is a co-founder of the Sikh Research Institute in San Antonio, Texas.)

Khalsa ji,

Sikh Nation has lost an intellectual giant. This loss will be felt for long time to come.

Dr Aulakh

Census 2010: Help Your Community, Be Counted

ByINDER SINGH
Special to India-West

Full page advertisements for United States Census 2010 are currently appearing in many Indian newspapers in the U.S. It mentions the importance of being counted and assures that the U.S. law "protects confidentiality" of the respondents. It also assures that the Immigration Department, IRS, FBI, CIA or the local police will not have access to any of the information in the Census document.

The 2010 Census is a count of everyone living in the United

States and is mandated by the U.S. Constitution. Whether you are a citizen, legal or illegal immigrant, on a tourist visa or H1-B visa, or even have no visa, the law encourages everyone on U.S. soil to respond to the Census 2010 questionnaire. The Indian community in the U.S. can "help improve schools, increase job training and get its share of over \$400 billion per year in federal funds" provided every Indian household "answers 10 simple questions and mails the Census questionnaire back to the Census Bureau."

Thirty years ago, the U.S. Census Bureau counted 361,544 Indi-

an Americans living in the United States. This number was one-sixth of one percent of the 226.5 million U.S. population in 1980. The Indian community predominantly comprised of those who migrated from India and adopted the U.S. as their new homeland. Ten years later, as per the 1990 Census, the number of Indian Americans rose to 815,447, more than double the previous count. By then, the community also included a large number of those who were born and raised in the United States of America. In 2000, the Census count of Indian Americans - immigrants, citizens, visitors from India, H-1B visa holders, officials of Indian Embassy and Consulates, Indian employees of other non-governmental Indian agencies, such as banks, etc. - was 1.67 million, slightly more than double the 1990 Census count.

The 2010 Census is again a numbers-dependent game. We can participate in it to our advantage by having a complete and accurate count of our community. In March 2010, the Census Bureau will mail a Census questionnaire to all households in the U.S. The Indian American community has an edge over the general U.S. population as it is highly educated and would need no outside help to fill the Census form. All Indian Americans should make a sincere effort to complete the Census questionnaire and return it before the April 1 deadline. The Indian American community can use its numerical strength to demand its fair share of the funds and services allocated pie. The increased number can be effectively considered as our community's strength and clout. We can become a force to reckon with against misrepresentation of our culture or negative

presentation of our professionals in the movies and other media, as well as in academia, politics and the professions. This is truly our chance to be properly and accurately counted as part of the fabric of American life.

Since 1790, the Census in the United States has been taken every ten years. The Census Bureau has constantly monitored and evaluated the changing societal needs and added new questions or dropped unnecessary ones from the survey form. In 1988, the Census Bureau wanted to eliminate various sub-groups under the group titled "Asian" on the 1990 Census form. A bill was introduced in the U.S. Congress, proposing elimination of the nine check-off boxes, Asian Indian, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, etc. The Asian leaders opposed the bill and eventually succeeded in that effort. Thus, the Asian people continue to be the only major group of U.S. population for which statistics by their country of origin are collected and maintained by the U.S. Census Bureau. The recognition of Asian Indians as a separate subgroup on the Census form gives us a sense of pride.

The Census Bureau collects, maintains and provides data with respect to the number of Indian Americans in the U.S., their household income, education level, etc. It is imperative that Indian Americans check the box titled "Asian Indian" in response to question 9 on the Census form for an accurate count of the Indian American population in the U.S.

The Census Bureau, in order to avoid the pitfalls of the past, is pouring millions of dollars into advertisements and billboards more in hiring temporary staff for Census-related work. A multicultural and

Community activists should identify and convince those who are hesitant or holdouts, and ensure that they stand up to be counted.

(INDER SINGH is chairman of the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin and past president of NFTA and founder/principal, Southern Calif

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Oregon House Passes Bill To Strike Down Turban Ban

By a Staff Reporter

The Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund commended the Oregon House of Representatives Feb. 9 for passing Oregon House Bill 3686, which if enacted would allow public school teachers to wear religious dress, including the Sikh dastar (turban), the Muslim hijab, and the Jewish yarmulke.

The House voted overwhelmingly in favor of the bill, passing it with a 51-8 vote. The bill will now be considered by the Oregon state Senate.

In the summer of 2009, SALDEF initiated a campaign to overturn this discriminatory legislation and has since been working to publicize and repeal ORS 342.650.

The bill is the first step in undoing ORS 342.650, an Oregon law that effectively forbids Sikhs, and all other individuals who wear religious dress in accordance with their faith, from working as public school teachers.

Over the past several months, SALDEF had worked closely with the Oregon House Speaker Dave Hunt, along with a broad coalition of groups and individuals

to engage in outreach to Oregon legislators, provided testimony at House hearings, and mobilized community support for the Lobby Day held at the State House in Salem.

"We commend the members of the Oregon House, and specifically Speaker Hunt for this vote and for sending the message that Oregon respects and embraces individuals of all faiths," SALDEF managing director Kavneet Singh stated in a press release to **India-West**.

"By passing this bill the legislators have taken the first step in doing away with an archaic law that was initially enacted with the support of the Ku Klux Klan. We look forward to the Oregon state Senate taking up this issue and passing it with similar overwhelming support."

The Feb. 9 vote "is a great victory for all residents of Oregon and the nation," added Oregon resident and local leader Ravitej Singh Khalsa. "I was part of the original effort in the mid-80s to get this law repealed, and it was truly amazing to see such a broad coalition of groups working to the same end this time around."

India Calls Sikhs' Killing in Pakistan

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

—India Feb. 22 condemned as barbaric the beheading of two Sikhs by the Taliban in Pakistan with Indian External Affairs Minister

S.M. Krishna saying it will take "us back to the medieval times."

The brutal killing also sparked outrage in Punjab whose Chief Minister and Shiromani Akali Dal chief Parkash Singh Badal joined the Congress in asking the govern-

ment to take it up at the Indo-Pak Foreign Secretary level talks in New Delhi Feb. 26.

SAD demanded immediate intervention of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in ensuring the safety and security of the Sikhs in

Killing in Pakistan Barbaric

Pakistan.

Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party activists held a protest demonstration at the Attari international border in Amritsar district and also near the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi.

Two Sikhs, who were kidnapped for ransom, were found beheaded by the Taliban in Pakistan's restive tribal belt Feb. 21.

Asked if the incident will be taken up at the Indo-Pak talks, Krishna merely said that "all issues concerning the relations between the two countries depending upon time will be taken up."

Congress spokesman Manish Tewari said, "It is extremely unfortunate... We expect the government to talk to Pakistan to protect the lives of the minorities there."

In Chandigarh, political parties, top Sikh religious bodies and the Akal Takht termed the incident as barbaric and an outrage against humanity.

Badal asked the Indian government to put the killing on the agenda of the Indo-Pak talks.

The two Sikhs were kidnapped over a month back. Some more members of the minority community are still in the custody of the rebels.

The body of Jaspal Singh was found in the Khyber tribal region,

located a short distance from the provincial capital of Peshawar while the body of Mahal Singh was found in the Aurakzai Agency sources told PTI Feb. 21.

There was confusion about the total number of Sikhs who were kidnapped for ransom from the Bara area of Khyber Agency by the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan. A source said four Sikhs were abducted while another report said the total number of kidnapped persons was six.

The Sikhs were kidnapped days ago and the Taliban had demanded Rs. 30 million as ransom for their release. Two of the kidnapped Sikhs were beheaded after the expiry of the deadline for the payment of the ransom, sources said.

Gurvinder Singh and Gurpreet Singh are still in the custody of the militants, sources said.

The kidnapping occurred in an area where the government has virtually no control and the militants are in a dominant position, sources said.

A sizeable number of Sikhs lived in the tribal belt, particularly in the Aurakzai Agency, till the Taliban imposed "jiziya" or religious tax on them last year. Most members of the community then fled to cities across Pakistan.



Activists of the Sikh community shout slogans as they burn an effigy of Pakistan-based Taliban militants during a protest against the Taliban militants who beheaded two Sikhs in Pakistan during a demonstration in Mumbai Feb. 23. (Getty Images)

Jihad Watch

Pakistan: Taliban behead 3 Sikhs for refusing to convert to Islam

"Three Sikhs beheaded by Taliban in Pak," from the **Economic Times**, February 22 (thanks to all who sent this in):

NEW DELHI: In what threatens to cast a shadow on the upcoming Indo-Pakistan talks scheduled for February 25, three Sikh youths were beheaded by the Taliban in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA) region after they allegedly refused to convert to Islam. Their severed heads were dumped at a gurudwara in Peshawar.

The Sikh youths -- identified as Jaspal Singh, Sarabjit Singh and Baronat Singh -- had gone to realise the money owed to them by some people in the FATA region adjoining Afghanistan, when they were abducted by the Taliban militia. They were allegedly told by the Taliban to embrace Islam or face death. When the Sikh youth refused, their heads were chopped and sent to the Bhai Joga Singh Gurudwara in Peshawar.

A sizeable number of Sikhs lived in the tribal belt, particularly Aurakzai Agency, till the Taliban imposed jiziya or religious tax on them in 2009. Most members of the community, faced with increasing pressure from the Taliban to convert to Islam, have since fled to cities across Pakistan.

Posted by Marisol on February 21, 2010 8:00 PM

Remembering Jallianwala Bagh



AMRITSAR — Indians visit the Martyr's Well, where people jumped inside the compound to escape from the bullets of Jallianwala Bagh massacre, in Amritsar Feb. 4. The Jallianwala Bagh massacre was where, on April 13, 1919, British Indian Army soldiers, on the direct orders of their British officers, opened fire on an unarmed gathering, killing at least 379 men, women and children, according to official records, and creating one of the major incidents of India's freedom struggle. (Getty Images)

Census Information Available in South Asian Languages

By a Staff Reporter

WASHINGTON — Information about the 2010 census is now available on the U.S. Census

Bureau's Web site in various South Asian languages, according to a press release.

The Web site includes census information in Hindi, Urdu, Pun-

jabi, Bengali, Gujarati, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu and Nepali.

More information can be found at <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/>

Obama Acknowledges Hindu, Sikh Contributions

WASHINGTON (PTI) — President Barack Obama acknowledged Feb. 4 the contributions of Hindus and Sikhs, along with other faiths, in reflecting compassion and decency of the American people.

At the National Prayer Breakfast meeting, Obama spoke on the compassion and decency of the American people, which is expressed

through individuals, organizations and religious institutions.

Obama praised the relief efforts launched by the Hindu and the Sikh community in Haiti following the devastating earthquake that hit the country last month.

A seven-member medical team of United Sikhs, the Sikh organization mentioned by Obama in his speech, has set up a rehabilita-

tion camp at a nearby makeshift hospital in the Haitian capital Port-au-Prince.

The team includes five doctors, a physical therapist and an occupational therapist from cities such as Chicago, New York and Toronto.

More doctors are to join them from Seattle and Chicago next week, said the group in a release.

3 Guilty in Anti-Sikh Riots

NEW DELHI (PTI) — A Delhi court Aug. 22 convicted three persons for attempting to murder members of a Sikh family during the 1984 riots and sharply criticized the Delhi Police and the state machinery, saying their role at that time "makes our heads hang in shame in the eyes of the world polity."

Additional Sessions Judge Surinder S. Rathi held Mangal Sen alias Billa, Brij Mohan Verma and Bhagat Singh guilty of attempt to murder, rioting, dacoity in Shastri Nagar in north Delhi.

While deciding the case, the judge expressed strong disapproval of the manner in which the Delhi police and the state machinery had acted during the anti-Sikh riots.

"Even though we boast of being the world's largest democracy and Delhi being its national capital, the sheer mention of the incidents of 1984 anti-Sikh riots in general and the role played by Delhi police and state machinery in particular makes our heads hang in shame in the eyes of the world polity," the court said.

The anti-riots cell of Delhi police had probed the incident in which one Joginder Singh and his two sons Jagmohan Singh and Gurvinder Singh were seriously injured while their house was burnt down by a mob led by the convicts Nov. 1, 1984.

ਲੀਡਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਮੰਦ ਬੁਧੀ ਦੀ ਸ਼ਿਕਾਰ ਸਿੱਖ ਡੇ ਪਰੇਡ

ਨਿਊਯਾਰਕ ਦੀ ਸਿੱਖ ਡੇ ਪਰੇਡ ਟਰਾਈ ਸਟੇਟ ਦੇ ਅਤੇ ਆਲੇ-ਦੁਆਲੇ ਦੀਆਂ ਹੋਰ ਸਟੇਟਾਂ ਦੇ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਲਈ ਇੱਕ ਜੋੜ ਮੇਲਾ ਬਣਦੀ ਜਾ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ। ਹਰ ਸਾਲ ਇਸ ਵਿਚ ਸ਼ਾਮਿਲ ਹੋਣ ਵਾਲੀਆਂ ਸਿੱਖ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਸੰਸਥਾਵਾਂ ਦੀ ਗਿਣਤੀ ਵਧਦੀ ਚਲੀ ਜਾ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ। ਦੁਨੀਆ ਦੀ ਮਾਲੀ ਰਾਜਧਾਨੀ ਸਮਝੇ ਜਾਂਦੇ ਨਿਊਯਾਰਕ ਸ਼ਹਿਰ ਦਾ ਇੱਕ ਹਿੱਸਾ ਇਸ ਦਿਨ ਪੂਰੀ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਸਿੱਖ ਰੰਗ ਵਿਚ ਰੰਗਿਆ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਪਰੇਡ ਵਿਚ ਸ਼ਾਮਿਲ ਹੋਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦੀ ਗਿਣਤੀ ਪੱਖੋਂ, ਇਹ ਪਰੇਡ ਨਿਊਯਾਰਕ ਵਿਚ ਹੁੰਦੀਆਂ ਦੂਜੀਆਂ ਪਰੇਡਾਂ ਨਾਲੋਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਵੀ ਘੱਟ ਨਹੀਂ, ਪਰ ਆਨ-ਬਾਨ ਦੇ ਪੱਖੋਂ ਇਹ ਪਰੇਡ ਕੋਈ ਸਾਰਥਕ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵ ਛੱਡਣ ਦੇ ਸਮਰਥ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋ ਸਕੀ। ਗਿਣਤੀਮਕ ਪੱਖੋਂ ਤਾਂ ਹਰ ਸਾਲ ਇਹ ਪਰੇਡ ਪ੍ਰਗਤੀ ਕਰ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ, ਪਰ ਗੁਣਾਤਮਕ ਪੱਖੋਂ ਇੱਕੋ ਥਾਂ ਖਲੋਤੀ ਜਾਪ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ।

ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਪਰੇਡ ਦੀ ਬਾਨ ਉਸ ਵਿਚ ਸ਼ਾਮਿਲ ਕੀਤੇ ਜਾਂਦੇ ਫਲੋਟ ਹੋਇਆ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਨਿਊਯਾਰਕ ਵਿਚ ਅਨੇਕਾਂ ਪਰੇਡਾਂ ਆਯੋਜਿਤ ਹੁੰਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ ਤੇ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਦੁਨੀਆ ਦੀਆਂ ਟੀ. ਵੀ. ਚੈਨਲਾਂ ਨਾਲੋਂ ਨਾਲ ਦਰਸਾਉਂਦੀਆਂ ਵੀ ਹਨ। ਉਹਨਾਂ ਪਰੇਡਾਂ ਦੇ ਫਲੋਟ ਜਿਸ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਦਰਸ਼ਨੀ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ, ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਮੁਕਾਬਲੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਪਰੇਡ ਵਿਚ ਸ਼ਾਮਿਲ ਕੀਤੇ ਜਾਂਦੇ ਫਲੋਟ, ਸਿਰਫ਼ ਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਹੀ ਫਲੋਟ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ। ਜਿਹੇ ਜਿਹੇ 23 ਸਾਲ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਸਨ, ਉਹੋ ਜਿਹੇ ਹੀ ਅਜ ਹਨ। ਇਹਨਾਂ ਫਲੋਟਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਵਧੇਰੇ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵਸ਼ਾਲੀ ਬਣਾਉਣ ਜਾਂ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸਿੱਖ ਧਰਮ ਦੇ ਫਲਸਫੇ ਨੂੰ ਦਰਸਾਉਣ ਦੇ ਕਾਬਲ ਬਣਾਉਣ ਲਈ, ਕਦੇ ਵੀ ਇਸ

ਪਰੇਡ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕਾਂ ਨੇ ਕੋਸ਼ਿਸ਼ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤੀ।

ਹਰ ਸਾਲ ਇਸ ਪਰੇਡ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਟਰਾਈ ਸਟੇਟ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਿੱਖ ਸੰਸਥਾਵਾਂ ਦੇ ਮੁਹਰੀਆਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਕਈ ਕਈ ਮੀਟਿੰਗਾਂ ਹੁੰਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ। ਨਵੇਂ ਸੁਝਾਅ ਲੈਣ ਅਤੇ ਇਸ ਪਰੇਡ ਨੂੰ ਵਧੇਰੇ ਸਾਰਥਕ ਬਣਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਕੀਤੀਆਂ ਜਾਂਦੀਆਂ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਮੀਟਿੰਗਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ ਸੰਸਥਾਵਾਂ ਦੇ ਮੁਹਰੀ ਇਸ ਲਈ ਚੁੰਬ ਚਰਚਾ ਕਰਦੇ ਰਹਿੰਦੇ ਹਨ ਕਿ ਕਿਹੜਾ ਫਲੋਟ ਕਿੰਨੇਵੇਂ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ। ਕਦੇ ਇਹ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਦੇਖੀ ਕਿ ਕਿਹੜਾ ਫਲੋਟ ਕਿਵੇਂ ਹੋਰ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵਸ਼ਾਲੀ ਬਣਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਕਿਵੇਂ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਫਲੋਟਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਧੁਨਿਕ ਅਤੇ ਸਿੱਖੀ ਫਲਸਫੇ ਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਗਟਾਉਣ ਦੇ ਸਮਰੱਥ ਬਣਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਕਦੇ ਇਸ 'ਤੇ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਕਿ ਲੱਖਾਂ ਡਾਲਰ ਖਰਚ ਕੇ ਆਯੋਜਿਤ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਇਹ ਪਰੇਡ ਕਿਉਂ ਮਹਿਜ਼ ਇੱਕ ਦਿਨ ਦਾ ਰਾਮ-ਰੋਲਾ ਹੋ ਕੇ ਰਹਿ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ। ਕਿਉਂ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਇਥੋਂ ਦਾ ਮੁੱਖ-ਧਾਰਾ ਦਾ ਮੀਡੀਆ ਕੋਈ ਗੌਰ ਨਹੀਂ ਕਰਦਾ? ਕਿਉਂ ਦੂਸਰੇ ਭਾਈਚਾਰਿਆਂ ਦੇ ਲੋਕ ਇਸ ਪਰੇਡ ਨੂੰ ਦੇਖਣ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਰੁਚਿਤ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੁੰਦੇ?

ਇਹ ਪਰੇਡ ਸਿੱਖ ਫਲਸਫੇ ਨੂੰ, ਸਿੱਖ ਇਤਿਹਾਸ ਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਚਾਰਨ ਅਤੇ ਉਭਾਰਨ ਦਾ ਸ਼ਕਤੀਸ਼ਾਲੀ ਮਾਧਿਅਮ ਬਣ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ, ਪਰ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਇਸ ਪਰੇਡ ਦੇ ਆਯੋਜਕ ਅਜੇ ਸੁਚੇਤ ਹੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੋਏ। ਹਰ ਸਾਲ ਇਹ ਪਰੇਡ ਸਿੱਖ ਧਰਮ ਤੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਫਲਸਫੇ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਗਟਾਵਾ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਥਾਂ, ਸਿੱਖ ਕਲਚਰਲ ਸੁਸਾਇਟੀ ਦੇ ਮੁਹਰੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਤੰਗ-ਸੋਚਣੀ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਕ ਬਣ ਕੇ ਰਹਿ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ।

ਇਸ ਪਰੇਡ ਦਾ ਸਭ ਤੋਂ ਨਿਰਾਸ਼ਾਜਨਕ ਪਹਿਲੂ, ਇਸ ਪਰੇਡ ਦੀ ਸਮਾਪਤੀ 'ਤੇ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਣ ਵਾਲੀ ਰਾਜਨੀਤਕ ਕਾਨਫਰੰਸ ਹੁੰਦਾ

ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਕਾਨਫਰੰਸ ਦੀ ਸਟੇਜ, ਇਸ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੁਝ-ਬੂਝ ਨੂੰ ਛੱਜ 'ਚ ਪਾ ਕੇ ਛਟਣ ਦਾ ਕੰਮ ਖੂਬ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ। ਸਟੇਜ 'ਤੇ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਆਪਣੀ ਹੀ ਭੀੜ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਹਉਮੈ ਨੂੰ ਦਰਸਾਉਣ ਦਾ ਸਾਧਨ ਬਣਦੀ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਪਰੇਡ ਲਈ ਕਦੇ ਵੀ ਕੋਈ ਅਹਿਮ ਸ਼ਖ਼ਸੀਅਤ ਮੁੱਖ ਮਹਿਮਾਨ ਬਣਨ ਲਈ ਤਿਆਰ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੁੰਦੀ। ਇਸ ਮੱਚ ਤੋਂ ਲੱਗਦੇ ਖਾਲਿਸਤਾਨੀ ਨਾਅਰੇ ਤੇ ਕੀਤੀਆਂ ਜਾਂਦੀਆਂ ਖਾਲਿਸਤਾਨੀ ਤਕਰੀਰਾਂ, ਅਮਰੀਕਾ ਦੇ ਰਾਜਨੀਤਕ ਆਗੂਆਂ ਨੂੰ, ਇਸ ਪਰੇਡ ਤੋਂ ਦੂਰ ਦੂਰ ਰਖਣ ਦਾ ਕੰਮ ਕਰਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ। ਸ਼ਹਿਰ ਦਾ ਮੋਅਰ ਤਕ ਵੀ ਇਸ ਪਰੇਡ ਵਿਚ ਕਦੇ ਨਹੀਂ ਆਇਆ। ਦੋ ਕੁ ਸਾਲ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਕੈਨੇਡਾ ਦੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਪਾਰਲੀਮੈਂਟ ਮੈਂਬਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਪਰੇਡ ਵਿਚ ਸ਼ਾਮਿਲ ਹੋਣ ਲਈ ਬੁਲਾਉਣ ਦਾ ਸੁੱਚਾ ਯਤਨ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ ਸੀ, ਪਰ ਜਦ ਇਸ ਸਟੇਜ ਤੋਂ ਖਾਲਿਸਤਾਨੀ ਨਾਅਰੇ ਲੱਗਣ ਲੱਗੇ, ਉਹ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਉਤਰ ਗਏ।

ਪਿਛਲੇ ਸਾਲ ਇਸ ਪਰੇਡ ਦੇ ਮੁੱਖ ਮਹਿਮਾਨ ਗੰਗਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਢਿੱਲੋਂ, ਖਾਲਿਸਤਾਨੀ ਨੇਤਾ ਸਨ। ਉਹਨਾਂ ਨੇ ਇਸ ਸਟੇਜ ਤੋਂ ਕਿਹਾ ਸੀ ਕਿ ਅਰਦਾਸ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਾ ਹਰ ਸਿੱਖ ਆਜ਼ਾਦੀ ਦਾ ਹਾਮੀ ਹੈ, ਪਰ ਸਿੱਖ ਕੌਮ ਕੱਦ ਆਜ਼ਾਦ ਹੁੰਦੀ ਹੈ, ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਕੁਝ ਨਹੀਂ ਕਿਹਾ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ। ਪਰ ਇੱਕ ਗੱਲ ਅਜ ਜ਼ਰੂਰ ਆਖੀ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ, ਖਾਲਿਸਤਾਨੀ ਨਾਅਰੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਕੌਮ ਨੂੰ ਅਜ ਦੇਵਾੜ ਕਰੀ ਰੱਖਣ ਦਾ ਕੰਮ ਕਰ ਰਹੇ ਹਨ।

ਮਜ਼ੇ ਦੀ ਗੱਲ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਜਿਹਨਾਂ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕਾਂ ਨੇ ਪਿਛਲੇ ਸਾਲ ਗੰਗਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਢਿੱਲੋਂ ਨੂੰ ਬੁਲਾਇਆ ਸੀ, ਉਹਨਾਂ ਹੀ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕਾਂ ਨੇ ਇਸ ਸਾਲ ਡਾ. ਗੁਰਮੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਐਲਖ ਨੂੰ ਬੁਲਾ ਲਿਆ, ਜਿਸ ਦੀ ਪਿਛਲੇ ਸਾਲ ਗੰਗਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਖੂਬ ਆਲੋਚਨਾ ਕੀਤੀ ਸੀ।

ਅਜੀਬ ਗਲ ਹੈ, ਖਾਲਿਸਤਾਨ ਪੱਖੀ ਜਿਤਨੇ ਵੀ ਪ੍ਰਮੁੱਖ ਲੀਡਰ ਹਨ, ਇੱਕ ਦੂਜੇ ਦੇ ਦੁਸ਼ਮਣ ਹਨ। ਭਲਾ ਇਹ ਲੋਕ, ਕੌਮ ਨੂੰ ਲਾਮਬੰਦ ਕਰਕੇ; ਆਜ਼ਾਦੀ ਕਿਵੇਂ ਲੈ ਕੇ ਦੇ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਨ, ਜਦ ਇਹ ਆਪ ਹੀ ਇਕ ਦੂਜੇ ਨਾਲ ਮਿਲ ਬੈਠਣ ਨੂੰ ਤਿਆਰ ਨਹੀਂ?

ਸਿੱਖ ਧਰਮ ਦੇ ਬਾਨੀ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਵ ਜੀ ਨੇ ਤਾਂ ਪ੍ਰਮਾਤਮਾ ਤਕ ਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਪਿਆਰ ਦਾ ਰਾਹ ਦੱਸਿਆ ਸੀ, ਇਹ ਨਫਰਤ ਕਰਨ ਤੇ ਨਫਰਤ ਫੈਲਾਉਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਲੀਡਰ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇ ਚਲਾਏ ਧਰਮ ਦੇ ਲੀਡਰ ਕਿਵੇਂ ਹੋ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਨ? ਇਹੋ ਵਜ੍ਹਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਲੀਡਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਸੁਣਨ ਲਈ ਬਹੁਤ ਘੱਟ ਲੋਕ ਰਹਿ ਜਾਂਦੇ ਹਨ। ਇਸ ਪਰੇਡ ਵਿਚ ਲਗਪਗ 40 ਹਜ਼ਾਰ ਦੇ ਕਰੀਬ ਲੋਕ ਸ਼ਾਮਿਲ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ, ਪਰ ਇਸ ਰਾਜਨੀਤਕ ਕਾਨਫਰੰਸ ਵਿਚ ਮਸਾਂ ਦੋ ਸੌ ਬੰਦੇ ਹੀ ਬੈਠੇ ਹੁੰਦੇ ਹਨ।

ਡਾ. ਮਨਮੋਹਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਆਪਣੀ ਸੋਚ ਤੇ ਆਪਣੀ ਵਿਦਵਤਾ ਸਦਕਾ ਭਾਰਤ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਦਾ ਅਹੁਦਾ ਹੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤਾ, ਸਗੋਂ ਦੁਨੀਆ ਵਿਚ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਦੀ ਆਨ ਅਤੇ ਬਾਨ ਵੀ ਕਾਇਮ ਕੀਤੀ ਹੈ, ਪਰ ਇਸ ਸਟੇਜ ਤੋਂ ਇਸ ਵਾਰ ਡਾ. ਗੁਰਮੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਐਲਖ ਨੇ ਉਹਨਾ ਬਾਰੇ ਜੋ ਅਪਸ਼ਬਦ ਬੋਲੇ ਹਨ, ਉਹ ਨਿਸ਼ਚੇ ਹੀ ਐਲਖ ਦੀ ਮੰਦਬੁਧੀ ਦੇ ਲਖਾਇਕ ਸਨ।

ਜਿਹੜਾ ਸਿੱਖ ਧਰਮ ਹੱਥੀਂ ਕਿਰਤ ਕਰਨ ਤੇ ਦਸਵੰਧ ਕੱਢਣ ਦਾ ਉਪਦੇਸ਼ ਦਿੰਦਾ ਹੈ, ਉਸ ਧਰਮ ਦੇ, ਇਹ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਿਆਂ ਦੇ ਧਾਨ 'ਤੇ ਜਿਉਣ ਵਾਲੇ, ਐਲਖ ਵਰਗੇ ਲੋਕ, ਲੀਡਰ ਕਿਵੇਂ ਬਣੇ ਫਿਰਦੇ ਹਨ?

—ਬਲਦੇਵ ਸਿੰਘ ਗਰੇਵਾਲ

This is Indian Govt Propaganda. They control the media. Council of Khalistan under the leadership of Dr. Aulakh, its president has lead the independence struggle very ably.

Dr. Aulakh

ਖਾਲਿਸਤਾਨ ਦੀ ਮੰਗ ਸਿੱਖ ਕੌਮ ਦੇ ਹਿੱਤ 'ਚ ਨਹੀਂ-ਰਵੀਇੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ

ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ (ਪੀ ਆਰ ਬੀ)-ਸ਼੍ਰੋਮਣੀ ਅਕਾਲੀ ਦਲ 1920 ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਸ: ਰਵੀਇੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਖਾਲਿਸਤਾਨ ਦੀ ਮੰਗ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਦੇ ਹਿੱਤ ਵਿਚ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੈ ਕਿਉਂਕਿ ਇਸਨੇ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਹੀ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਦਾ ਬਹੁਤ ਨੁਕਸਾਨ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ। ਸ: ਰਵੀਇੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਇਥੇ ਪੱਤਰਕਾਰਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਗੱਲਬਾਤ ਕਰ ਰਹੇ ਸਨ, ਜੋ ਕਿ ਬਾਦਲ ਦਲ ਦੀ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਇਕਾਈ ਦੇ ਸੀਨੀਅਰ ਮੀਤ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਜਥੇਦਾਰ ਹਰਜਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੇ ਅਕਾਲੀ ਦਲ 1920 ਵਿਚ ਸ਼ਾਮਲ ਹੋਣ ਲਈ ਰੱਖੇ ਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮ ਵਿਚ ਹਿੱਸਾ ਲੈਣ ਲਈ ਪੁੱਜੇ ਹੋਏ ਸਨ। ਜਥੇਦਾਰ ਹਰਜਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਪਿਛਲੇ ਮਹੀਨੇ ਅਕਾਲੀ ਦਲ ਨੂੰ ਅਲਵਿਦਾ ਕਹਿ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਸੀ। ਸ: ਰਵੀਇੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਅਕਾਲੀ ਦਲ ਬਾਦਲ ਅੱਜ ਆਪਣੇ ਸਿਧਾਂਤ ਤੋਂ ਬਿਜ਼ਕ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ ਕਿਉਂਕਿ ਇਸ ਉਪਰ ਇਕ ਪ੍ਰੀਵਾਰ ਦਾ ਕਬਜ਼ਾ ਹੋ ਗਿਆ ਹੈ, ਜਿਸ ਕਾਰਨ ਪੰਥਕ ਸੋਚ ਵਾਲੇ ਆਗੂ ਅਤੇ ਵਰਕਰ ਅਟੁੱਟ ਮਹਿਸੂਸ ਕਰ ਰਹੇ

ਹਨ। ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਜਥੇਦਾਰ ਹਰਜਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਤੇ ਸਾਥੀਆਂ ਦਾ ਸਨਮਾਨ ਕਰਦਿਆਂ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਦਲ ਵਿਚ ਪੂਰਾ ਮਾਣ ਸਨਮਾਨ ਦੇਣ ਦਾ ਐਲਾਨ ਕੀਤਾ। ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਸ: ਬਾਦਲ ਉਪਰ ਦੋਸ਼ ਲਾਇਆ ਕਿ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੇ ਪੰਥਕ ਬੁਰਕੇ ਹੇਠ ਜਿੰਨਾ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦਾ ਨੁਕਸਾਨ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ ਓਨਾ ਕਾਂਗਰਸ ਨੇ ਵੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤਾ। ਸ: ਰਵੀਇੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਇਕ ਸਵਾਲ ਦੇ ਜਵਾਬ ਵਿਚ ਦੱਸਿਆ ਕਿ ਕੈਪਟਨ ਅਮਰਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਮੇਰੀ ਦੋਸਤੀ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਹੈ, ਪਰ ਸਿਆਸੀ ਰਸਤਾ ਸਾਡਾ ਦੋਹਾਂ ਦਾ ਅਲੱਗ-ਅਲੱਗ ਹੈ।

ਇਸ ਸਮੇਂ ਜਥੇਦਾਰ ਹਰਜਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਸ਼੍ਰੋਮਣੀ ਅਕਾਲੀ ਦਲ ਵਿਚ ਕੁਰਬਾਨੀ ਵਾਲੇ ਟਕਸਾਲੀ ਦੀ ਕੋਈ ਵੀ ਵੱਕਤ ਨਹੀਂ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਇਸ ਉਪਰ ਸਰਮਾਏਦਾਰ ਲੋਕ ਕਾਬਜ਼ ਹਨ। ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਸ: ਰਵੀਇੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਜਿਥੇ ਵੀ ਮੇਰੀ ਡਿਊਟੀ ਲਗਾਉਣਗੇ ਮੈਂ ਉਸ ਨੂੰ ਨਿਭਾਵਾਂਗਾ।



ਸ਼੍ਰੋਮਣੀ ਅਕਾਲੀ ਦਲ 1920 ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਸ: ਰਵੀਇੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਲੁਧਿਆਣਾ ਵਿਖੇ ਪੱਤਰਕਾਰਾਂ ਨਾਲ ਗੱਲਬਾਤ ਕਰਦੇ ਹੋਏ, ਤਸਵੀਰ ਵਿਚ ਭਾਈ ਹਰਜਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਮੇਤ ਹੋਰ ਆਗੂ ਨਜ਼ਰ ਆ ਰਹੇ ਹਨ।

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॥ ਡਾਇਸਪੋਰਾ ॥

ਨਿਊਯਾਰਕ ਸਿੱਖ ਡੇਅ ਪਰੇਡ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਦੇ ਜੋਸ਼ ਤੇ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਕ ਬਣੀ

ਡਾ. ਮਨਮੋਹਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਬਾਰੇ ਘਟੀਆ ਟਿੱਪਣੀਆਂ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਰੋਸ ਪੈਦਾ ਕਰ ਗਈਆਂ

ਨਿਊਯਾਰਕ (ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਨਿਧ)-ਇਥੇ 24 ਅਪ੍ਰੈਲ ਸਨਿਚਰਵਾਰ ਨੂੰ ਹੋਈ ਸਿੱਖ ਡੇਅ ਪਰੇਡ ਸਿੱਖ ਕੌਮ ਦੇ ਖਾਲਸਾ ਸਮਾਜ ਦਿਵਸ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਸ਼ਾਹਪਾਣ, ਜੋਸ਼ ਅਤੇ ਉਤਸ਼ਾਹ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਤੀਕ ਸਾਬਤ ਹੋਈ। ਇਸ ਵਾਰ ਸ਼ਾਮਲ ਹੋਈਆਂ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਦੀ ਗਿਣਤੀ ਪਿੱਛੇ ਇਹ ਪਰੇਡ ਪਿਛਲੇ ਸਾਲਾਂ ਨਾਲੋਂ ਵੀ ਵਧੇਰੇ ਸਫਲ ਰਹੀ।

ਮੈਡੀਸਨ ਐਵੀਨਿਊ ਦੇ 37 ਸਟ੍ਰੀਟ ਤੋਂ ਆਰੰਭ ਹੋ ਕੇ ਇਹ ਪਰੇਡ 23 ਸਟ੍ਰੀਟ ਮੈਡੀਸਨ ਪਾਰਕ ਤਕ ਪੁੱਜ ਕੇ ਵਿਸ਼ਾਲ ਵਿਸਾਖੀ ਮੇਲੇ ਦਾ ਰੂਪ ਧਾਰ ਗਈ। ਇਸ ਵਾਰ ਇਸ ਵਿਚ ਨਿਊਯਾਰਕ ਦੇ ਸਮੂਹ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਿਆਂ ਤੋਂ ਇਲਾਵਾ ਟਰਾਈ ਸਟੇਟ, ਮੇਰੀਲੈਂਡ, ਵਰਜੀਨੀਆ ਆਦਿ ਸਟੇਟਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਹਿੰਮ-ਹੁਮਾ ਕੇ ਸ਼ਾਮਲ ਹੋਈਆਂ। ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸਿੱਖ ਕਲਚਰਲ ਸੁਸਾਇਟੀ, ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਬਾਬਾ ਮੱਖਣ ਸ਼ਾਹ ਲੁਬਾਣਾ, ਸਿੱਖ ਸੈਂਟਰ ਫਲੀਸ਼ਿੰਗ, ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਬੁਨੀ ਸਟੀਟ ਫਲੀਸ਼ਿੰਗ, ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਰਾਮਗੜ੍ਹੀਆ ਸਿੱਖ ਸੁਸਾਇਟੀ, ਸਿੱਖ ਐਸੋਸੀਏਸ਼ਨ ਆਡ ਸਟੇਟਨ ਆਈਲੈਂਡ, ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਮਾਤਾ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਕੌਰ ਗਲੇਨਕੋਵ, ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸੈਂਟਰਲ ਜਰਸੀ, ਵਿੰਡਸਰ ਨਿਊਜਰਸੀ, ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਵੈਸਟਚੈਸਟਰ, ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਸਿੱਖ ਸੁਸਾਇਟੀ, ਡੈਪਟਫੋਰਡ, ਨਿਊਜਰਸੀ, ਗੁਰੂ ਹਰਕਿਸ਼ਨ ਇਸਟੀਚਿਊਟ ਆਡ ਸਿੱਖ ਸਿੱਖ ਸੈਂਟਰੀਜ਼ ਮੇਰੀਲੈਂਡ, ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਦਮੋਸ਼ ਦਰਬਾਰ, ਨਿਊਜਰਸੀ, ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਬਰਿਜਵਾਟਰ, ਨਿਊਜਰਸੀ, ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਫਿਲਡੈਲਫੀਆ ਸਿੱਖ ਸੁਸਾਇਟੀ, ਮੇਲਬਰਨ, ਪੈਨਸਲਵੇਨੀਆ, ਮਿਡ ਹਡਸਨ ਸਿੱਖ ਕਲਚਰਲ ਸੁਸਾਇਟੀ, ਵਿਸ਼ਾਕਿਲ ਨਿਊਯਾਰਕ, ਸਿੱਖ ਐਸੋਸੀਏਸ਼ਨ ਆਡ

ਬਾਲਟੀਮੋਰ, ਮੇਰੀਲੈਂਡ, ਨਾਨਕ ਨਾਮ ਜਥਾਸ਼ ਸਕੂਲ, ਨਿਊਜਰਸੀ, ਬਾਬਾ ਬੁੱਢਾ ਜੀ ਐਸੋਸੀਏਸ਼ਨ, ਬਾਬਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਬਹਾਦਰ ਐਸੋਸੀਏਸ਼ਨ, ਸੰਤ ਪ੍ਰੇਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਿੱਖ ਕਲਚਰਲ ਐਸੋਸੀਏਸ਼ਨ, ਸੰਤ ਪ੍ਰੇਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਿੱਖ ਫਾਊਂਡੇਸ਼ਨ ਸੁਸਾਇਟੀ, ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਫਾਊਂਡੇਸ਼ਨ ਵਾਸ਼ਿੰਗਟਨ ਡੀ. ਸੀ., ਸਿੱਖ ਐਸੋਸੀਏਸ਼ਨ ਆਡ ਕੈਪੀਟਲ ਡਿਸਟ੍ਰਿਕਟ ਐਲਬਨੀ, ਨਿਊਯਾਰਕ, ਪ੍ਰਭੂ ਮਿਲਨੇ ਕਾ ਚਾਉ ਸੰਸਥਾ, ਮਿਲਫੋਰਡ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸਾਹਿਬ, ਮਿਲਫੋਰਡ, ਮੇਰੀਲੈਂਡ, ਸਿੱਖ ਸੰਗਤ ਸਭਾ ਕਾਰਟਰੇਟ, ਨਿਊਜਰਸੀ, ਸਿੱਖ ਯੂਥ ਆਡ ਅਮਰੀਕਾ, ਖਾਲਸਾ ਸਕੂਲ ਬਰਿੰਗਟਨ ਆਦਿ ਸਿੱਖ ਸੰਸਥਾਵਾਂ ਦੇ ਮੈਂਬਰ ਇਸ ਪਰੇਡ ਵਿਚ ਸ਼ਾਮਲ ਹੋਏ।

ਇਸ ਪਰੇਡ ਵਿਚ ਫਲੋਟਾਂ ਪਿੱਛੇ ਇਸ ਵਾਰ ਵੀ ਕੋਈ ਨਵਾਪਣ ਜਾਂ ਵਾਧਾ ਨਜ਼ਰ ਨਹੀਂ ਆਇਆ। ਸਿੱਖ ਵਾਰ ਜਸਟਿਸ ਵੱਲੋਂ '84 ਦੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਘੱਲੂਘਾਰੇ ਦੇ ਪੀੜਤਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਤਸਵੀਰਾਂ ਇੱਕ ਫਲੋਟ 'ਤੇ ਪ੍ਰਦਰਸ਼ਿਤ ਕੀਤੀਆਂ ਗਈਆਂ ਸਨ ਅਤੇ ਇੱਕ ਹੋਰ ਫਲੋਟ 'ਤੇ 1978 ਤੋਂ 1995 ਤਕ ਹੋਏ ਸ਼ਹੀਦ ਖਾੜਕੂਆਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਫੋਟੋਆਂ ਪ੍ਰਦਰਸ਼ਿਤ ਕੀਤੀਆਂ ਗਈਆਂ ਸਨ।

ਹਰ ਸਾਲ ਵਾਂਗ ਇਸ ਵਾਰ ਵੀ ਮੈਡੀਸਨ ਪਾਰਕ ਤਕ ਪੁੱਜ ਕੇ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਸ਼ਰਧਾਲੂਆਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਲਗਾਏ ਲੰਗਰ ਦੇ ਸਟਾਲਾਂ ਦੁਆਲੇ ਜੁੜ ਗਈਆਂ ਤੇ ਮੈਡੀਸਨ ਪਾਰਕ ਵਿਚ ਬੈਠ ਕੇ ਮੇਲੇ ਦਾ ਅਨੰਦ ਮਾਨਣ ਲੱਗ ਪਈਆਂ।

23 ਸਟੀਟ 'ਤੇ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਰਹੀ ਸਿਆਸੀ ਕਾਨਫਰੰਸ ਵਿਚ ਇਸ ਵਾਰ ਵੀ ਮਸਾਂ ਦੇ ਕੁ ਸੌ ਦੇ ਕਰੀਬ ਸਰੋਤਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਭੀੜ ਹੀ ਦੇਖੀ ਗਈ। ਇਸ ਵਾਰ ਸਟੇਜ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਪਿਛਲੇ ਸਾਲਾਂ ਨਾਲੋਂ ਬਹੁਤ ਕਮਜ਼ੋਰ ਨਜ਼ਰ ਆਇਆ ਅਤੇ ਮੰਚ 'ਤੇ ਭੀੜ

ਜੁੜੀ ਰਹੀ। ਇਸ ਵਾਰ ਮੁੱਖ ਬੁਲਾਰੇ ਡਾ. ਗੁਰਮੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਔਲਖ 'ਤੇ ਡਾਕਟਰ ਪਰਮਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਜਰਾਵਤ ਸਨ। ਪਿਛਲੇ ਸਾਲ ਮੁੱਖ ਮਹਿਮਾਨ ਸ. ਗੰਗਾ ਸਿੰਘ ਵਿੱਲੋ ਨੇ ਜਿਹਨਾਂ ਖਾਲਸਾਤਨੀ ਨੇਤਾਵਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਆਪਣੀ ਅਲੋਚਨਾ ਦਾ ਵਿਸ਼ਾ ਬਣਾਇਆ ਸੀ, ਇਸ ਵਾਰ ਉਹ ਨੇਤਾ ਹੀ ਮੁੱਖ ਮਹਿਮਾਨ ਸਨ। ਇਸ ਤੋਂ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕਾਂ ਦੀ ਸਿਆਸੀ ਸੂਝ ਸਪੱਸ਼ਟ ਹੋ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ।

ਡਾ. ਗੁਰਮੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਔਲਖ ਦਾ ਭਾਸ਼ਣ ਹਰ ਸਾਲ ਇੱਕੋ ਹੀ ਹੁੰਦਾ ਹੈ ਤੇ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਕੁਝ ਖਾਸ ਫਿਕਰੇ ਵੀ ਹਰ ਸਾਲ ਦੁਹਰਾਏ ਜਾਂਦੇ ਹਨ। ਇਸ ਵਾਰ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਨੇ ਭਾਰਵੇਂ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਡਾ. ਮਨਮੋਹਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਬਾਰੇ ਜੋ ਨੀਵੇਂ ਪੱਧਰ ਦੀ ਸ਼ਬਦਾਵਲੀ ਵਰਤੀ, ਉਸਨੇ ਸਰੋਤਿਆਂ ਵਿਚ ਕਾਫ਼ੀ ਕੜਵਾਹਟ ਪੈਦਾ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤੀ। ਡਾ. ਗੁਰਮੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਡਾ. ਮਨਮੋਹਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੂੰ ਸੋਨੀਆ ਗਾਂਧੀ ਦੇ 'ਤਲੇ ਚੱਟਣ ਵਾਲਾ' ਆਖਿਆ ਤੇ ਇਹ ਵੀ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ 'ਉਸ ਨੂੰ ਸਿੱਖ ਅਖਵਾਉਣ ਦਾ ਵੀ ਕੋਈ ਹੱਕ ਨਹੀਂ'।

ਜਿਸ ਇੱਕ ਸਿੱਖ ਕਾਰਨ ਪੂਰੀ ਸਿੱਖ ਕੌਮ ਦੀ ਵਿਸ਼ਵ ਵਿਚ ਚੰਗੀ ਪਰਿਚਾਣ ਬਣੀ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਜਿਸ ਸਿੱਖ ਨੂੰ ਅਮਰੀਕਾ ਦਾ ਰਾਸ਼ਟਰਪਤੀ ਇਸ ਹੱਦ ਤਕ ਸਤਿਕਾਰ ਦਿੰਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਉਸਦੇ ਮਾਣ ਵਿਚ ਆਪਣੇ ਕਾਰਜਕਾਲ ਦਾ ਪੋਲਨਾ ਸਟੇਟ ਡਿਨਰ ਦਿੰਦਾ ਹੈ, ਉਸ ਸਿੱਖ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਬਾਰੇ ਡਾ. ਔਲਖ ਦੇ ਘਟੀਆ ਪੱਧਰ ਦੇ ਕਟਾਖਸ਼ ਸੋਜੀਦਾ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਘਿਨੌਣੇ ਜਾਪੇ।

ਜਦ ਡਾ. ਔਲਖ ਨੇ ਡਾ. ਮਨਮੋਹਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਬਾਰੇ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ "ਉਹ ਕੋਈ ਲੀਡਰ-ਲੂਡਰ ਨਹੀਂ, ਉਸਨੇ ਕਦੇ ਕੋਈ ਇਲੈਕਸ਼ਨ ਨਹੀਂ ਜਿੱਤੀ" ਤਾਂ ਕੁਝ ਸਰੋਤਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਇਹ

ਆਖਦੇ ਵੀ ਸੁਣਿਆ ਗਿਆ - ਤੂੰ ਵੀ ਤਾਂ ਕਦੇ ਕੋਈ ਚੋਣ ਨਹੀਂ ਜਿੱਤੀ, ਤੇਨੂੰ ਖਾਲਿਸਤਾਨ ਦਾ ਰਾਸ਼ਟਰਪਤੀ ਅਖਵਾਉਣ ਅਤੇ ਆਪਣੇ-ਆਪ ਨੂੰ ਸਿੱਖ ਲੀਡਰ ਬਣਨ ਦਾ ਹੱਕ ਕਿਸਨੇ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਹੈ?

ਸ਼੍ਰੋਮਣੀ ਅਕਾਲੀ ਦਲ ਯੂ. ਐੱਸ. ਏ. ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਸ. ਮਨਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੁਸ਼ਹਾ ਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਪਰੇਡ ਵਿਚ ਨਜ਼ਰ ਆਂਦਾਜ਼ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ, ਜਿਹਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਨਾਲ ਪਰੇਡ ਦੇ ਮੁੱਖ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕ ਸ. ਟਹਿਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸਿੱਖ ਕਲਚਰਲ ਸੁਸਾਇਟੀ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਚੁਣੇ ਗਏ ਸਨ। ਮਨਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੁਸ਼ਹਾ ਇਸ ਵਾਰ ਦੇ ਮੱਠ ਸੰਚਾਲਨ ਤੋਂ ਕਾਫ਼ੀ ਬੁਢਾ ਨਜ਼ਰ ਆਏ। ਉਹਨਾਂ ਨੇ ਔਲਖ ਦੇ ਬੋਲਾਂ ਦਾ ਸਖ਼ਤ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਲੈਂਦਿਆਂ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਡਾ. ਮਨਮੋਹਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੀ ਵਿਦਵਾਤਾ ਸਦਕਾ ਪੂਰੇ ਵਿਸ਼ਵ ਵਿਚ ਸਿੱਖ ਪਰਿਚਾਣ ਬਣੀ ਹੈ, ਅਜਿਹੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਬਾਰੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਘਟੀਆ ਸ਼ਬਦ ਬੋਲਣੇ ਚੰਗੇ ਨਹੀਂ ਲੱਗਦੇ।

ਮਨਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੁਸ਼ਹਾ ਨੇ ਪਰੇਡ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕਾਂ ਦੀ ਆਲੋਚਨਾ ਕਰਦਿਆਂ ਕਿਹਾ ਕਿ ਸਿੱਖ ਡੇਅ ਪਰੇਡ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਦਾ ਚੰਗਾ ਇਮੇਜ ਬਣਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਥਾਂ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਹੀ ਦੁਬਿਧਾ ਪਾਉਣ ਵਾਲੀ ਸਾਬਤ ਹੋਈ ਹੈ। ਉਹਨਾਂ ਨੇ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਅਪੀਲ ਕੀਤੀ ਕਿ ਅੱਗੋਂ ਤੋਂ ਪੜ੍ਹੇ ਲਿਖੇ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਹੀ ਪਰੇਡ ਦੀ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰੀ ਸੌਂਪੀ ਜਾਣੀ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ।

ਇਸ ਮੰਚ ਤੋਂ ਸੰਬੋਧਨ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲਿਆਂ ਵਿਚ ਡਾ. ਪਰਮਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਜਰਾਵਤ, ਸੈਨੇਟਰ ਚੱਕ ਸ਼ੁਮਰ, ਅਜੈਬਲੀਮੈਨ ਰੋਰੀ ਲੈਂਚਮੈਨ ਆਦਿ ਸ਼ਾਮਲ ਸਨ। ਕੌਸਲਮੈਨ ਵੈਪਰਿਨ ਨੇ ਆਪਣਾ ਸੰਦੇਸ਼ ਆਪਣੇ ਏਲਚੀ ਹੱਥ ਭੇਜਿਆ।

ਪਿਛਲੇ ਸਾਲਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਸਿੱਖ ਡੇਅ ਪਰੇਡ

ਵਾਲੇ ਦਿਨ ਨੂੰ ਨਿਊਯਾਰਕ ਦੇ ਮੇਅਰ ਵੱਲੋਂ 'ਸਿੱਖ ਡੇਅ' ਐਲਾਨ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਸੀ, ਇਸ ਵਾਰ ਅਜਿਹਾ ਐਲਾਨ ਵੀ ਮੇਅਰ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਨਾ ਕੀਤਾ ਗਿਆ। ਪਿਛਲੇ ਸਾਲ ਕੁਝ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਚੈਨਲਾਂ ਨੇ ਇਸ ਪਰੇਡ ਨੂੰ ਨਾਲੋ-ਨਾਲ 'ਲਾਈਵ' ਟੈਲੀਕਾਸਟ ਕੀਤਾ ਸੀ, ਇਸ ਵਾਰ ਕਿਸੇ ਚੈਨਲ ਨੇ ਅਜਿਹੀ ਦਿਲਚਸਪੀ ਨਾ ਦਿਖਾਈ।

ਇਹ ਪਰੇਡ ਗਿਣਤਾਤਮਿਕ ਪੱਖੋਂ ਤਾਂ ਭਰਪੂਰ ਸਫਲ ਰਹੀ, ਪਰ ਗੁਣਾਤਮਿਕ ਪੱਖੋਂ ਮਾਯੂਸ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲੀ ਸਾਬਤ ਹੋਈ। ਇਸ ਪਰੇਡ ਦਾ ਮੁੱਖ ਆਕਰਸ਼ਣ ਇਸ ਵਾਰ ਵੀ ਸ਼ਰਧਾਲੂਆਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਲਗਾਏ ਖਾਣੇ ਦੇ ਮੁਢਤ ਸਟਾਲ ਹੀ ਰਹੇ।

ਇਸ ਪਰੇਡ ਦਾ ਸਭ ਤੋਂ ਸੁਖਦ ਪੱਖ ਸੀ, ਪਰੇਡ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਲਗਪਗ 40 ਹਜ਼ਾਰ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਖਿਲਾਰੇ ਗਾਰਬੇਜ਼ ਨੂੰ ਸਾਫ਼ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲੇ ਨੌਜਵਾਨ ਮੁੰਡੇ ਕੁੜੀਆਂ ਦੀ ਸੇਵਾ। ਇਹ ਨੌਜਵਾਨ, ਗੁਰਪਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੀ ਅਗਵਾਈ ਵਿਚ, ਪਰੇਡ ਸਮਾਪਤ ਹੁੰਦਿਆਂ ਹੀ ਪੂਰੇ ਏਰੀਏ ਦੀ ਸਫਾਈ ਕਰਨ 'ਚ ਜੁੱਟ ਗਏ।

ਸਿੱਖ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਦੇ ਜੋਸ਼ ਪਿੱਛੇ ਅਤੇ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਨੌਜਵਾਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੇਵਾ-ਭਾਵਨਾ ਸਦਕਾ ਇਹ ਸਿੱਖ ਡੇਅ ਪਰੇਡ ਨਵੀਆਂ ਆਸਾਂ ਜਗਾਉਣ ਵਾਲੀ ਸਾਬਤ ਹੋਈ। ਪੂਰੀ ਉਮੀਦ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਨੌਜਵਾਨ ਮੁੰਡੇ ਕੁੜੀਆਂ ਆਉਂਦੇ ਸਾਲਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਇਸ ਪਰੇਡ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਸੁਧਾਰਨ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਅੱਗੇ ਆਉਣਗੇ ਤੇ ਇਹ ਪਰੇਡ ਕੁਝ ਇੱਕ ਲੀਡਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਹਉਮੈ ਨੂੰ ਪੱਠੇ ਪਾਉਣ ਵਾਲੀ ਤੇ ਸਿਆਸੀ ਪ੍ਰਦੂਸ਼ਣ ਵੈਲਾਉਣ ਵਾਲੀ ਨਾ ਰਹਿ ਕੇ, ਸਿੱਖ ਪਰਿਚਾਣ ਨੂੰ ਪਰੋਗੀ ਬਣਾਉਣ ਵਾਲੀ ਹੋ ਸਕੇਗੀ।